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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

NATION



President Obama challenges Mitt Romney on foreign policy in their final debate.

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WORLD



Seven experts are convicted for failing to warn residents of an earthquake.

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LIFE & STYLE



Taylor Swift has come to embrace her larger-than-life status.

► PAGE 19

Tinian's San Nicolas named AG



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, signs his appointment letter minutes after he announced his nomination of Joey Patrick San Nicolas, center, to serve as CNMI attorney general while acting AG Viola Alepuyo, right, looks on in the governor's main conference room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. San Nicolas, a legal counsel for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, is the first attorney from Tinian to be appointed AG.

- **Fitial instructs him to 'follow the law'**
- **AG nominee: Request for probe on Buckingham issue will be taken seriously**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated yesterday Commonwealth Ports Authority legal counsel Joey Patrick San Nicolas to serve as CNMI attorney general, advising him to "follow the law," more than two months since the controversial departure from the CNMI of former AG Edward T. Buckingham.

See TINIAN's on Page 4

Fitial, House to renew push for Saipan casinos

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday his administration and the House leadership will again push for new legislation allowing casino operations on Saipan and this time they are hoping the Senate will not

kill it as it did twice and five years since Saipan voters rejected the idea for the second time.

Fitial said he supports casino industries on the other two islands, and that is why he personally testified on Monday on Tinian in support of a Taiwan-based in-

See FITIAL on Page 4

DPL tries to stop Kilili, wife from road waving



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), left, and his wife Andrea wave to passing motorists near the Microl intersection in San Jose late afternoon yesterday, minutes after the Department of Public Lands tried to stop them from doing so over questions about campaign signs.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Lands compliance officers allegedly tried to stop Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) and his

wife Andrea from road waving near the Microl intersection in San Jose late yesterday afternoon, but DPL acting secretary Ray Salas said it was "not a political harassment" but a matter of checking to

See DPL on Page 4

Hospital to reinstate dental clinic. PAGE 6
Hotel occupancy at 67 percent in September. PAGE 7

Local

ATF steps into probe of Power 99 car burning

»Ex-DJ arrested anew, charged in federal court

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has stepped into the investigation

'Ice' trafficking case dismissed; OAG admits that its case is weak

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos dismissed yesterday an "ice" trafficking case after prosecutors admitted that the government's case against the alleged "ice" supplier is weak.

Inos dismissed without prejudice the case against Jun Fang after the Office of the Attorney General moved to drop the charges against the suspect.

in the burning of Power 99's vehicle, allegedly by the radio station's former disc jockey, Aziz Peter Mettao.

ATF agents served the 27-year-old Mettao with an arrest

Assistant attorney general James McAllister told the court that the government's case against Fang is weak.

Colin Thomson served as court-appointed counsel for Fang, who was charged with illegal possession of a controlled substance, trafficking of a controlled substance, and conspiracy to distribute a con-

warrant on Friday. The warrant was issued by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Manglona issued the warrant after ATF filed that same

trolled substance.

In September, Fang's co-defendant, Changfeng Zhang, also known as KK, pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance and was sentenced to three years in prison. Inos ordered Zhang to pay a \$2,000 fine plus court costs and required him to perform 200 hours of community service.

day in federal court a complaint charging Mettao with malicious use of explosive materials, a felony that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years or more in prison.

Under the plea deal, Zhang agreed to cooperate with the government in the prosecution of Fang.

Members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Zhang in July, alleging that the suspect was found in possession of \$200 worth of "ice" weighing about 3 gross grams that was delivered to a third party in June.

DETF Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that they were able to purchase from Zhang \$1,200 worth of "ice" during three sting operations.

Castro said further investigations showed that Zhang is wanted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for removal from the United States.

Later in July, police also arrested Fang, who, according to detectives then, was Zhang's suspected "ice" supplier. (Ferdie de la Torre)

At his initial court appearance on Monday afternoon, assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton moved to unseal the case. Court-appointed counsel for Mettao did not object.

Manglona set the detention hearing and preliminary hearing on Monday, Oct. 29, at 8:30am.

Mettao was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

ATF special agent John N.Q.

Quintanilla stated in his affidavit that there is probable cause to believe that Mettao committed a crime of malicious use of explosive materials.

Quintanilla's affidavit cited the police's reports about the burning of Power 99's silver Hyundai's Tucson in western Garapan in the early morning of Sept. 10, 2012.

Quintanilla said that Mettao used beer bottles that he filled with flammable liquid to burn and damage the vehicle leased

See ATF on Page 4

Administration seeks new scholarship chief

The CNMI Scholarship Office is operating without an administrator following the recent departure of its director, but the Fitial administration said the agency continues to function because the Executive Branch temporarily placed its supervision under the Office of the Special Assistant for Administration.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the administration is looking for a replacement for Jacqueline Che, the former scholarship head who has moved to the Northern Marianas College.

"The Fitial administration has yet to name a new scholarship administrator... In the interim, the CNMI Scholarship Office continues to provide

services as usual under the supervision of the Office of the Special Assistant for Administration. Because this is a recent vacancy, the administration is now initiating the process of selecting a new administrator," Demapan said.

The NMI Scholarship Office functions under the Office of the Governor. Unlike the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance, which is funded by revenue collected from poker machines and licenses, the CNMI Scholarship Office gets direct government appropriation.

Saipan Tribune was informed yesterday that Che is still helping the agency through the transition. Che served the scholarship office for more than a year. (Moneth G. Deposa)



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WESTERN UNION
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Fund seeks settlement conference before Judge Faris

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees, through trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano, wants to settle all issues and claims in a class lawsuit filed by retiree Betty Johnson.

Fund counsels Braddock J. Huesman and Daniel J. Berman yesterday asked the U.S.

District Court for the NMI to issue an order requiring the parties in Johnson's lawsuit and their attorneys to attend a settlement conference.

Huesman and Berman asked the court to set the time and place of the conference to aid the resolution, settlement, and disposition of the case.

They also asked the court to issue an order requiring all

parties, and inviting non-party autonomous CNMI agencies, to appear at the status conference before Hawaii bankruptcy judge Robert Faris on or before Nov. 19, 2012, to select the dates and times for the settlement discussions on Saipan.

"The Fund believes that settlement of all issues and claims is best served at this stage of the litigation before more costs

and expenses are incurred," Huesman and Berman said.

Johnson's case, they noted, has been pending and litigated in various courthouses for the last three years.

"There are still a multitude of intellectually fascinating legal issues that could be litigated before an answer is even filed in this case, but there is one immutable, glaring truth, which all the parties recognize: in order to survive, the Fund must be paid the money that it is due," Huesman and Berman said.

They said all parties should be ordered, and possibly some non-parties be invited,

to participate in the settlement conference, where principal agents with authority are compelled to attend.

"The clear benefit of settlement conference is that all parties will have a non-binding opportunity to present proposals that their clients can live with," the lawyers said.

In one settlement conference, they added, all parties can have one efficient and supervised opportunity to do what is right and formulate a plan that attempts to provide full benefits for Fund members.

In her lawsuit, Johnson asked the court to order the Fund and the CNMI government to col-

lect Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo's judgment, pay or bring current all CNMI obligations to the Fund, and distribute appropriate retirement benefits.

Betty Johnson named as defendants Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Fund trustees Adelina C. Roberto and Nacrina Barcinas, former Fund administrator Richard S. Villagomez, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, the CNMI government, Finance, Fund, and the Fund board.

Johnson is suing the defendants for breach of contract, violation of the U.S. and CNMI constitutions, violation of due process, deprivation of rights, breach of fiduciary duty, and unjust enrichment.

Charges refiled in fruit bats poaching case

The U.S. government has refiled charges against former Rota customs officer Albert A. Taitano and former Division of Fish and Wildlife staff David A. Santos for alleged poaching on a breeding colony of threatened Mariana fruit bats in 2008.

An indictment charged Taitano and Santos with one count of conspiring to unlawfully take a threatened species and one count of taking a threatened species.

The indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Sept. 24, 2012. Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona unsealed the case on Monday.

Santos appeared with court-appointed counsel Michael Dotts during Monday's bail hearing. Santos pleaded not guilty.

The jury trial will be on Dec. 3, 2012.

Manglona released Santos on his own personal recognizance with some pretrial release conditions.

Taitano was not summoned to appear in court.

According to the indictment, on the morning of Nov. 1, 2008, Santos and Taitano, along with others, hunted Mariana fruit bats at the Sumac maternity colony roost site on Rota.

At the time, the Sumac roost site was one of three remaining maternity roost sites on Rota and was home to more than 100 roosting Mariana fruit bats, including adults and pups.

Santos and Taitano, along with others, allegedly shot and killed dozens of Mariana fruit bats at the Sumac roost site using shotguns, including a .410 gauge Mossberg shotgun and a .410 gauge Remington shotgun.

Santos and Taitano allegedly unlawfully took a threatened species Mariana fruit bat (*Pteropus marianus marianus*).

Santos and Taitano were indicted in 2011 with retired police lieutenant Adrian Mendiola over the same alleged poaching incident in 2008.

Only Mendiola's jury trial commenced in May 2011 in the District Court. The court dismissed without prejudice the charges against Taitano and Santos at the prosecution's motion. Dismissal without prejudice means the government may refile the

case in the future.

The 12 jurors later found Mendiola guilty of unlawful possession of a threatened wildlife but not guilty of unlawful receipt or acquisition of threatened wildlife.

Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after the federal court announced the verdict on Mendiola that they would refile the charges against Santos and Taitano.

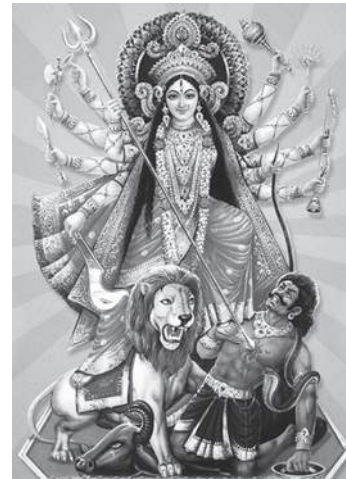
Schuler said they will retest the evidence and proceed with

the recharging and prosecuting Taitano and Santos.

Schuler specifically stated that they will re-analyze the evidence, including some of the recovered shotgun shells.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

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ANNOUNCEMENT
The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting Vendor Applications for the Kagman geographical area on Saipan.
All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25 or through email request to Fabian Ulloa, WIC Vendor Management Coordinator, at fabianu@cnmiwic.org beginning October 19, 2012.
The deadline for submission of completed applications and required documentation will be no later than 4:00 p.m., October 26, 2012.
Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the criteria guidelines provided with the application to ensure minimum qualifications are met.
Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to Fabian Ulloa through email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or at 664-4066.
The CNMI WIC Program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture Food & Nutrition Service is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.
/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

TINIAN'S

From Page 1

San Nicolas is the first attorney from Tinian to be nominated AG by any governor, said Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), one of those who attended the announcement ceremony yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill.

San Nicolas' appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

He said he is humbled and honored by the nomination.

Fitial said he asked San Nicolas to serve as AG in "just a matter of days after Buckingham left and decided not to come back."

San Nicolas said he asked the governor to give him time to think about the appointment and consult with his family and friends, considering the weight of the responsibilities of being the CNMI's attorney general.

"I understand what's been going on here and I know that there are decisions that must be made, issues that must be faced... I made a decision last week after consulting with close friends and family," he said.

While San Nicolas was still considering the nomination, Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos appointed Viola Alepuyo to serve in an acting capacity. Alepuyo will remain an assistant attorney general if and when the Senate confirms San Nicolas' nomination.

The governor signed San Nicolas' appointment letter in front of the crowd in the governor's main conference room during a 16-minute news briefing yesterday afternoon.

Fitial said he expects the Tinian Legislative Delegation to support San Nicolas' nomination.

If confirmed by the Senate, San Nicolas said he will continue Alepuyo's work, including boosting the morale of assistant attorneys general and staff. He also complimented the quality of the lawyers and staff at the OAG.

"I will say this. I will listen to you. I will respect you, respect your opinions, and I will cooperate with you as we work together, moving forward for the people," San Nicolas said, addressing the OAG attorneys and staff.

'No exemption'

During a question-and-answer with reporters, San Nicolas said he will leave it up to people to decide on the elected AG initiative that will be on the ballot in the Nov. 6 elections.

On another question about

a Senate panel's request to the OAG to investigate the Buckingham "escort" incident in August, San Nicolas said he believes this and other requests will be investigated.

"I think it is important that we take every request for an investigation seriously and if given the opportunity, if confirmed by the Senate, there will be no exemption. Every investigation will be followed and whether it warrants prosecution or not, the determination would be made based on the facts," San Nicolas said.

Buckingham was escorted by police and ports police officers as he was leaving the CNMI, allegedly to shield him from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges against him. A now dissolved Special Committee on Impeachment held hearings to shed light on the issue.

San Nicolas said OAG attorneys are guided by the rule of law, whether it be statutes, or the CNMI Constitution or the U.S. Constitution.

Constitution

This early, San Nicolas' appointment is raising some concerns.

Article 3, Section 11 of the CNMI Constitution states that "The attorney general shall be a resident and a domiciliary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for at least three years immediately preceding the date on which the attorney general is confirmed."

Prior to becoming legal counsel for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, San Nicolas was an assistant attorney general at the Guam Attorney General's Office.

As of last night, it was not clear when San Nicolas left the Guam AGO. San Nicolas and the administration has yet to provide a copy of the AG nominee's resume.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan), one of those present at the news briefing yesterday, said he believes the nominee "can do the job" of an attorney general for the CNMI. They are first cousins.

The Senate vice president said the Tinian community is "very proud" of San Nicolas' nomination. Just like Sen. San Nicolas, Hofschneider said the Senate looks forward to working with the nominee.

Also present at yesterday's announcement were assistant attorneys general and staff at the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, the nominee's family and relatives, friends, and other government officials.

charges in Superior Court over the burning of the car. He is out on bail in that case.

On Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered Mettao to stay 500 feet away from the radio station at all times.

Wiseman issued the order after Power 99 general manager Tina Palacios complained with the Department of Public Safety on Monday, saying that Mettao has been lurking around the radio station.



Attorney general nominee Joey Patrick San Nicolas, fifth from right, poses with Gov. Benigno Fitial, family members, staff at the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, friends, and other government officials at the Office of the Governor conference room yesterday.



ZONING MEETING

The Commonwealth Zoning board holds a meeting at the Zoning Office in Dandan last Thursday. The board has decided to wait until after the November election to ramp up efforts in doing presentations at the Legislature on the proposed amendments to the zoning law.

DPL

From Page 1

see whether the incumbent delegate was following DPL rules related to campaign signs.

The Sablan couple started their road waving around 4pm. They were holding campaign signs.

Sablan said that minutes later, DPL employees approached them asking them to stop because they didn't have a permit.

He said there was no political signboard to speak of, and the

only "Vote Kilili" signs around were the ones he and his wife were holding. Sablan said his campaign has permits for their permanent election signs and knows the law about campaign signs and billboards.

Sablan said there was no reason for DPL to stop him and his wife from standing beside the road and wave at passing motorists, a common practice among candidates. The election is on Nov. 6.

"DPL came and said, 'you can't

stand here. It's a political sign. I said I have permit, the signs are not stationary," he told reporters in an interview near the Microl intersection late afternoon yesterday. "She said, you can't put political signs." I said two Sundays ago, the governor had a long line of political signs. The lady was nice, she said, 'we're off on Sundays.'"

The DPL staff left the Sablan couple after things were clarified.

The DPL acting secretary, in a separate interview with *Saipan*

Tribune, said DPL compliance officers were just trying to see if rules about political signs were being complied with.

"There's no political harassment here. My staff said she saw a political signboard. This is no big deal. The DPL staff is just doing her job," Salas said.

Sablan's opponent in the upcoming elections is Dr. Ignacia Demapan of the Republican Party headed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial who doesn't see eye to eye with Sablan on a host of issues.

ATF

From Page 2

by Triple J Motors to Power 99, a subsidiary of the Guam-based Sorensen Media Group.

The special agent said that, according to the radio station's manager, Mettao was employed as a DJ for Power 99 for about eight months before his termination, four months before the car burning.

Mettao is facing criminal

Palacios told police she is still worried for her studio and the employees, knowing that Mettao is no longer in detention.

Chief prosecutor Peter B. Prestley then asked the court to impose an additional distance requirement on the current no-contact court's order.

On Sept. 17, 2012, the court required Mettao to have no direct or indirect contact with Power 99 Radio Station, among other conditions.

FITAL

From Page 1

vestor Howarm Goldern Island Holdings Ltd. which is proposing to acquire Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

"I even suggested this is an opportunity for Rota and Tinian to benefit from Saipan casinos," he said in an interview at the announcement of his new attorney general nominee, Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

The governor said there are "at least three" investors still

willing to invest in casino operations on Saipan.

The House leadership, aligned with the governor, will revisit the casino bills they passed and defeated in the Senate.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) reiterated that casino operation is the governor's only economic plan, when there are a lot of proposals on the table.

Manglona said Senate legislative initiatives to help the NMI Retirement Fund were ignored, and a sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase

agreement signed by the governor without a full economic analysis will force CNMI utility users to pay more than what they are paying now.

The governor is also once again calling House and Senate members for another leadership summit, days after a resolution impeaching him failed.

The impeachment resolution listed 16 articles of felony, corruption, and neglect of duty against Fitial, but got only nine of 14 "yes" votes needed to impeach him and move the process to the Senate for trial.

WASC team interviews Hart, 3 regents on first day of visit

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 12-member team from the Western Association of School and Colleges began their first day of work yesterday by interviewing Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D. and three members of the Board of Regents.

Saipan Tribune learned that the three regents who took part in the one-on-one interview with the WASC team were vice chair Elaine Orilla and regents Andrew Orsini and Frank Rabauliman.

Sources disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the accreditation team was seen yesterday morning touring the campus

following a meeting with the college accreditation liaison officer and key staff.

Meetings with members of the college's individual standard teams were also conducted, along with a series of meetings with programs like the School of Education, deans, and directors of certain offices.

The 12-person WASC team is headed by Dr. Gari Browning and includes Jill Ferguson, Kathleen Mendelsohn, James Keller, Jeff Shimizu, Dr. Christopher Villa, Roger Welt, Eddie West, Chui Tsang, Clyde Sakamo-

to, Gilbert Rodriguez, and Dr. Patricia Prado.

The day was capped by an afternoon meeting with NMC students, faculty, and employees, which lasted an hour and drew a handful of attendees.

Sources disclosed that during this meeting, the visiting team mentioned that the commission is aware and concerned of what's happening in the Commonwealth regarding its economy and politics and how these affect the college.

The visitors, it was learned, also encouraged the crowd to come forward if there's anything they want to share or ask

the commission team.

Meantime, the *Saipan Tribune* was told that one-on-one interviews with the remaining three board members—chair Juan Lizama, Malua Peter, and William Torres—are scheduled today as well as individual interviews with the presidents of governance councils such as faculty and staff senates and student council.

The team is scheduled to stay until Thursday and the group is expected to conduct exit interviews and provide team recommendations before leaving.

Sources disclosed that the

visiting group had been on island since Monday, holding meetings outside the college while some members flew to the Tinian instructional site for inspection.

WASC placed NMC on continued probation status due to remaining standards and recommendations that have not been met. In August, NMC submitted its self-evaluation report to the commission and it is the visiting team's job to check the validity of the report.

WASC will decide the college's accreditation fate in January next year.

Karidat in search of partner for 'Toys for Tots'

Karidat Social Services is still looking for a partner for their "Toys for Tots" toy collection drive this holiday season.

Executive director Angie V. Guerrero said they normally get a civic organization to help them gather enough toys that will be given to children from less fortunate families. Recipients are children ages 0 to 11 years old on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"Usually, it's members of the community or different groups that approach us. Right now, we don't have one yet," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Recipients are children ages 0 to 11 years old on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Karidat partnered with Wells Fargo for several years for the annual toy drive before the financial services company closed down its Saipan branch.

Last year, Karidat teamed up with the Society for Human Resource Management.

"We're open to anyone interested and we'll work with them to give them the number

of families who will benefit from it," said Guerrero.

For more information, visit

Karidat in Chalan Kanoa or call 234-5248 or 6981. (*Clarissa V. David*)



ON VACATION

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A tourist mother and her son try out Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio's water park, a popular attraction among visitors and residents. Tourist arrivals to the CNMI soared by 19 percent, from 27,203 in July 2011 to 32,478 in July 2012, latest data from the Mariana Visitors Authority shows.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. Wednesday, August 15, 2012 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 - ii. Friday, August 24, 2012 – Special Board Meeting Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - a. CDA-NMHC Tinian Office
 - b. Garapan Properties for Auction
 - c. 2012 LIHTC Application
 - d. PHD Program Updates
 - e. RD Payment Plan
 - f. Girl Scouts of the Northern Mariana Islands' Housing Unit Request
 - g. Tinian Subdivision Complaints
- IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS**
 - a. Rota Field Office
 - b. Tinian Field Office
- V. FISCAL AFFAIRS**
 - a. Status of FY2011 Audit
 - b. FY2012 Financial Status
 - c. Proposed Amendments to FY2013 Budget
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

Robert T. Torres
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: 234-7859
Fax No.: 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

LYDIA VALERA PARKS, Petitioner,	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0087 FCD
vs.	
STEPHEN FRANCIS PARKS, Respondent.	NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that Petitioner Lydia Valera Parks, through counsel, Robert T. Torres, has filed a Motion for Default Judgment in the above-styled case. The hearing on said Motion will be heard on October 29, 2012, at 1:30pm, by Honorable Judge Kenneth Govendo at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated on September 27, 2012.

Sabrina, Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk
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Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
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Email: ross@guamcell.net

- **Friday, October 26th 8:30am - 5:00pm**
 - **Saturday, October 27th 9:00am - 2:00pm**
- at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan**

All interested patients should
call Marianas Medical Clinic
for scheduling

234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid



**Ross
Hearing
Aids**

Healthcare Corp. to reinstate hospital's dental clinic

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said it will reinstate the dental clinic at the Commonwealth Health Center early next year following the approval of a nearly \$500,000 federal grant.

The dental clinic at the Commonwealth's lone hospital was closed down this year as a result of the organization's financial challenges.

Division of Public Health di-

rector Roxanne Diaz disclosed that soon after the clinic's closure, the corporation immediately applied for an oral health grant and was recently awarded \$470,000 by the Health Resources and Services Administration, or HRSA. The money will fund the dental program for the next three years.

Diaz said this is the first time the CNMI was awarded the HRSA oral health grant, just as the hospital needed it the most.

"In working with the CEO

[Juan N. Babauta], we hope to reinstate the dental services by January," she said.

Also part of the grant is the hiring of a dentist who would not only serve Saipan but also the Rota and Tinian centers.

Diaz admits that the dental clinic does not generate a lot of revenue for the corporation but "it is still a revenue unit for the hospital."

When the dental clinic reopens, she estimates it to generate at least \$178,000 in addi-

tional revenue.

Since the shutdown of the dental clinic, many low-income parents of mostly Head Start students have found it difficult to obtain a dental provider in the private sector as these clinics have stopped accepting Medicaid clients due the government's mounting receivables. Dental service is among the major requirements for children enrolling in the Head Start program of the Public School System.

Antonio Yarovwemal, PSS

Head Start health, nutrition, and mental health manager, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the dental clinic's closure posed a big challenge for Head Start this school year.

In fact, Yarovwemal said that Head Start was forced to hire a private company for \$50,000 to provide dental service to its students for the school year.

Yarovwemal said the contracted provider has been going around schools since the opening of classes in September to

provide dental services to students. He hopes reopening the hospital's dental clinic will be permanent.

"We don't want to bank on that re-opening. We need to sit down with Public Health and discuss what really needs to be done for our children. We need to make sure that this clinic will be permanent," he said.

Head Start is a federally funded program for children ages 3-5 years old. Each year, the program accommodates 462 enrollees.

'Downsizing Rota Health Center will place residents in serious jeopardy'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) is urging the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to spare the Rota Health Center from further manpower cuts, saying this will place the island's people in serious jeopardy.

In a letter to CEO Juan N. Babauta dated Oct. 19, Santos said the people of Rota are very much concerned about the corporation's plan to enforce another reduction-in-force, which has already affected a dozen employees on Rota.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Rota Health Center has over 40 employees, down from the previous year's count of 52.

Two doctors, two registered nurses, three licensed practical nurses, eight nursing assistants,

and other support and administrative staff currently make up the center's workforce.

"Our physicians have informed us that if, in fact, we are cut loose by the proposed downsizing, it will constitute a crisis situation for Rota and its approximately 2,000 residents. We will have to fend for ourselves and we will have to find a way to secure our own contract to transport our patients because existing vendors are unwilling to assist us due to non-payment of its account with the corporation," Santos told Babauta.

Compounding the situation is the physical isolation of the island and the unavailability of a reliable emergency off-island referral, which often forces the Rota government to request a rescue mission from the U.S. Coast Guard in Guam to transport critical patients

to a better facility.

"Needless to say, the time it takes to arrange such a mission is time lost for the patient and maybe the difference between life and death. Any downsizing of the ability of RHC to manage emergencies and short stay patients will place the residents of Rota in serious jeopardy," added Santos.

She said any reduction-in-force must be accompanied by a reciprocal improvement of the center's ability to transfer patients to a center where care is available.

Prior to the 2011 takeover of the corporation, the health centers on Rota and Tinian were under the jurisdiction of their respective municipalities, which allocate budgets for the centers. The corporation took over that responsibility after the takeover last year.

Addresses of servicemembers needed

Operation CNMI Homefront Support is seeking for addresses of family members and friends serving in the military who will be this year's recipients of traditional care packages.

Xerox Corp.'s Nola Hix, who is taking lead in this year's operation, said at Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting that they need to gather the addresses before volunteers prepare and send out the packages.

"We'll be sending the care packages around Thanksgiving next month," Hix told Rotarians, adding that the group sent out between 200 to 250 care packages in 2011.

Now on its fifth year, Operation CNMI Homefront Support is an initiative that sends care packages to U.S. Armed Forces service men and women from

the CNMI who are currently deployed abroad.

Hix disclosed that volunteers will prepare the packages at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Nov. 26.

She said that one of the troops requested for Saipan maps since many other service members do not know where the island is. A veteran, Mike Busby, responded to the request by donating 1,000 Saipan maps.

This year's packages would also include CNMI flags and postcards from Jack Hardy on top of local favorites like canned goods, dried mangoes, and rice crackers.

She urged the public to send the addresses of these soldiers by email at operationhomefront@pticom.com or call 28-SHARE (74273). (*Clarissa V. David*)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-13-003

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-13-003

GATE VALVE & FIRE HYDRANT REPLACEMENT KOBLERVILLE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement in Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The work consists of excavation & removal of existing gate valves and installation of new 6-inch and 8-inch gate valve and fire hydrant assemblies connected to a 6-inch or 8-inch main waterline. Payment is only for the item as completely installed and accepted by the CUC. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The Bidding Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Koblerville, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 14, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 29, 2012** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer - via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-13-004

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-13-004

Navy Hill Waterline and Pressure Improvement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Navy Hill Waterline and Pressure Improvement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The work consists of installation of new waterlines, cut and cap and tapping to existing waterlines on Gloria Drive, Ocean View Drive, Isla Drive and Puetto St. Installation of new PRVs, gate valves, and construction of new booster pump station. The work is also inclusive of installation of new water lateral lines, reconnection of all existing water meters, asphalt paving restoration, etc. The work shall be done without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bidding Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 30, 2012 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-004, Navy Hill Waterline and Pressure Improvement Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 20, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price and Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 7, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - christie.sablan@cucgov.org..

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Hotels' occupancy rate at 67 percent in September

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported yesterday a 66.95 percent occupancy among its 12 member hotels for September 2012, a 7-percent increase from September 2011.



A total of 48,243 of 72,060 available room nights were sold in September 2012, compared to 43,579 of 72,240 of available room nights sold over the same period last year.

Room rates were \$93.02 dur-

ing the month, compared to \$92.32 last September.

"Visitors arrivals and hotel occupancy are both slightly higher this year," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa, who is also general manager of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. "However, 67 percent occupancy is still well below our break-even level for hotel operations. With more destination promotions, HANMI strongly believes the visitor

industry can improve, which would mean more government revenue and a better standard of living for residents."

So far this calendar year, hotel occupancy is at an average 73.22 percent, 9 percent higher than last year but still below the healthy industry indicator average of 80 percent occupancy.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. (HANMI)

5 lawmakers pool \$1.35K for CLI donation

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Center for Living Independently in the CNMI recently got the support of five lawmakers who provided additional funds to subsidize a safe and affordable public transportation for people with disabilities.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) contributed a total of \$1,350 to assist CLI-CNMI in providing coupons that allow its consumers to use the Call-A-Ride Saipan local transportation service at reduced rates.

The five legislators were given certificates of appreciation, which were hand-delivered on Oct. 23 to their offices on Capital Hill.

Cruz, in making his contribution, saluted the CLI-CNMI staff and members of the Independent Living Group, a non-profit advocacy group, for striving to live independently and benefiting the entire community.

Cabrera noted that the disability community has long been neglected and that the CNMI must provide the encouragement and the services that will help them become active, contributing community members.

Lydia D. Igitol, executive director for CLI-CNMI, expressed on behalf of the many consumers served by the center their sincere gratitude to the government leaders for their donation.

Last month, three other lawmakers—Reps. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Ray Yumul (R-Saipan)—contributed a total of \$2,500 for the same

purpose.

Igitol said the reduced fare coupons would be used by CLI-CNMI consumers to travel to and from training and support activities at the center, as well as for transportation to and from school or work.

She noted, though, that the center is struggling to maintain its services in the wake of reduced federal businesses.

CLI-CNMI is a non-profit organization funded through the U.S. Department of Education for the purpose of providing a comprehensive range of services that will make it possible for people with disabilities to live as independently as they choose within the community.

Individuals or businesses interested in assisting the work of the group may visit the center at Capital Hill House No. 1366 or call 322-4303.

'Better nutrition promotes high literacy'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A candidate running for a seat on the CNMI State Board of Education expressed support for the board's "Wellness Policy," saying it is one way to promote and encourage high literacy rates within the Public School System.

Janice Ada Tenorio, who seeks to represent Saipan on the board, explained yesterday at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting that this policy guides the public schools' nutrition program and was developed and implemented through a collaborative community process.

Tenorio said that better nutrition has been linked to higher achievement on standardized tests, increased cognitive function, attention, and memory, and other positive behavioral indicators such as improved school attendance and cooperation.

"Hungry kids are more likely to divert themselves away from educational studies and from school participation in classrooms, from having friends," Tenorio told Rotarians.

"Undernourished children are more likely to repeat a grade and require more special education and possibly mental health services, which are so expensive



Tenorio

to provide within [PSS] or even in the CNMI," she added.

Tenorio underscored the need to nurture literacy in public schools as it serves as a "gateway" to knowledge in many disciplines.

While PSS already offers training programs on nursing, culinary, automotive, computer science, and tourism and hospitality, Tenorio articulated the need to enhance the current curriculum by working alongside agencies to determine what skills are needed in the workforce.

She proposed a survey among companies and students in public schools to identify other occupational skills needed to replace nonresident workers, adding that construction, electrical, plumbing, and other related trades are "great" disciplines to

learn but "very costly."

Tenorio also articulated the need for PSS to collaborate with the Northern Marianas College and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute to ensure that advanced training on career and technical programs are offered.

She also offered the "buddy system" as a means to do hands-on training for individuals who can replace long-term staff that businesses on island have.

If elected, Tenorio vows to collaborate with educational and other community leaders to strengthen the islands' educational goals, ensure that every penny spent by the board is directed to children's education, and become a "strong voice" for children and schools across the Northern Marianas.

Tenorio received her bachelor's degree from Boise State University in Idaho and master's in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University.

Currently employed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Tenorio also worked at NMC for over 17 years, with her last position as dean of Student Services. She also volunteers for community organizations, including the CNMI/Guam Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Parents Advisory Council for State.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW12-IFB-008 CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN BOATING SAFETY BUILDING, TINIAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Tinian Boating Safety Building, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after October 17, 2012 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on November 07, 2012, 1:30 p.m. local time at the Tinian Boating Safety Building. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on November 16, 2012 to **Mr. Arthur B. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Arthur B. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW12-IFB-008". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time November 28, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time November 28, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than November 28, 2012 and must be received no later than December 10, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, December 11, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on November 28, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, in certified check, Cashier's Check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit under penalty of perjury:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Two-Hundred Forty (240) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US\$100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ ANICETO T. OGUMORO
Acting Commissioner, Department of Public Safety



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW12-RFP-004

PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Acting Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide **Security Services for the Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF)**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Preference is available to U. S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after October 17, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station on November 2, 2012. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Alex S. Chong, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, November 7, 2012.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Relevant Qualification & Experience of the Firm, Personnel & Staff:	45%
2.	Past Experience or Equivalent on Similar Projects:	35%
3.	Current Workload of the Firm and Ability to Commit Staff to the Project:	10%
4.	Price:	10%

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW12-RFP-004." For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, November 9, 2012. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, November 9, 2012, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than November 9, 2012 and must be received no later November 21, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposal and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussion, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by proposers.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with § 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Energy awareness campaign on Saturday

 In conjunction with the “2012 National Energy Action Month” the Department of Public Works / Energy Division Office will be hosting an Energy Awareness Campaign on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012, (morning and afternoon session only) at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan in Garapan.

The first session is from 9am to 11am while the second session is from 2pm to 4pm.

This campaign will provide the residential community tips on how to conserve energy at homes and how to save money using efficient products that carry the Energy Star label. This event will educate the community of the importance of energy conservation in the

»Pre-registration now ongoing

Commonwealth.

The Energy Division through its Energy Education, Efficiency and Conservation efforts will be distributing reusable shopping bags with Home Energy Savings Kits and an opportunity to obtain either a 16” pedestal fan

or portable stove by participating in the 2012 National Energy Action Month event.

Due to limited seating, interested individuals must pre-register with the CNMI Energy Division office to confirm attendance and seating from 7:30am to 4:30pm

by Oct. 26, 2012. In addition, registered attendees will be required to present a copy of their most recent utility bill, in their name, in order to be allowed to participate in the sessions.

Participants are required to be present an hour before the start of the event for registration purposes. **(Office of the Governor)**

EMO warns of high surf until Thursday

The Emergency Management Office issued yesterday a high surf advisory to warn the public against venturing near exposed reefs and beaches due to life threatening rip currents.

The advisory states that a high pressure well northeast of the Marianas has produced a long period north swell that

is generating hazardous surf along north facing reefs of the region.

The high surf advisory will remain in effect until 10am Thursday.

“Hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet along north facing reefs will increase an additional 1 to 2 feet overnight before peak-

ing at 10 to 12 feet Wednesday. Surf will then slowly subside to below hazardous levels early Thursday,” the advisory states.

EMO is urging the public to avoid exposed beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs, as rip currents are life threatening.” **(EMO)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CW-1 updates at SHRM luncheon

The CNMI Chapter of the Society of Human Resources Management will have as guest Stephen P. Green, USCIS Field Office director for Guam/CNMI, during its monthly meeting on Thursday, Oct. 25, 11:30am to 2pm at Charley’s Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Green would provide updates on employment under the CW-1 status. Specifically, he will discuss CW-1 renewals and requirements on the part of the sponsors (employers) and beneficiaries (workers).

Seating is limited, so make your reservations with Malou Jardinero at malou_jardinero@tanholdings.com or contact her at 234-7171 Ext. 1518. **(SHRM)**

Air Force, Marine Corps training on FDM

The U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force are training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla today,

Oct. 24, from 4:30pm to 11pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. **(PR)**

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

Today’s edition of *John Gonzales LIVE* will feature the topic “Breast Health...*Hinemlu’ Famalao’an*,” with guests Dr. Daniel Lamar, Family Medicine; Dr. Gary Ramsey, OB-gynecologist; and Trina Sablan, DPH Non-Communicable Disease Bureau. The program will air from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Ch. 14. The program also rebroadcasts on the Internet on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com). Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230),

texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzaleslive@gmail.com). **(PR)**

Free workshop on parole-in-place applications

Micronesian Legal Service Corp.’s Marianas office will be hosting two workshops to help people prepare extensions for parole-in-place applications. The first workshop is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 28, at 1pm and the second one will be at 3pm on the same day.

It is only for those that have already been granted humanitarian parole and need to extend. Although MLSC will conduct the workshop to help people understand the process, no individual legal advice will be given. Each workshop will be conducted in English, each workshop is limited by the capacity of the auditorium at the American Memorial Park. If there is no auditorium seats

available, the session will be closed. For more information call 234-6243 or 234-7729.

Marriage Encounter’s Weekend Renewal on Thursday

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter graduated 17 new couples from the Fall Weekend, which took place on Oct. 19-21, 2012. The presenting team consisted of Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, Tom and Erica Thornburgh, Charlie and Esther Keone (Guam) and Ray and Fina Fernandez (Guam). All Encountered couples are being invited to join the M.E. community at the Weekend Renewal on Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012, 6pm at the Kanoa Resort, Century Tours’ conference room. For newly encountered couples, this is your final presentation of the Weekend. Refreshments are most welcome; bring any to share. For more information contact Jun and Linda Pangelinan at 288-3482. **(PR)**



Oct. 24, 2000

No conflict of interest in fed funding

Special Assistant for Administration Jose I. Deleon Guerrero yesterday maintained that the Division of Environmental Quality can still protect the interest of the Commonwealth even if it is receiving funding for the salaries of its 25 employees from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Assistant Attorney General Murphy Peterson has criticized the failure of DEQ to cooperate with the Attorney General’s Office in providing documentation concerning polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in Tanapag. Mr. Murphy said the fact that EPA is paying the salaries of some 25 DEQ personnel, including Director Ignacio Cabrera, has caused tremendous conflict of interest, a view which he said is shared by the DEQ chief.

New law grants 10-year reprieve on NMHC’s loan

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation is hoping to finally achieve its target of sealing 1,000 home loan packages by the end of next year, following the passage of legislation granting the agency a 10-year reprieve on the payment of its \$10 million loan to the Marianas Public Land Trust. NMHC Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the signing of House Bill 12-171 into public law will expand the opportunity of many Northern Marianas families to achieve home ownership through the agency’s loan programs. The new law guarantees that payment of NMHC’s loans, which was sealed through Public Law 10-29, be paid out of the revenues MPLT turns into the General Fund each year. It also grants NMHC a 10-year moratorium on the repayment of \$10 million to the CNMI.

Oct. 24, 2001

New law bans phosphates use in NMI

Eight weeks after being passed by the Legislature, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio scored one point for Mother Earth after signing into law a measure that would prohibit the use of cleaning agents containing phosphates in the CNMI. Besides banning the sale, manufacture, distribution, and use of detergents containing phosphate, House Bill 12-167 also grants the Division of Environmental Quality the power to pass rules and regulations necessary to regulate the sale and use of phosphorus base chemicals. The measure, primarily authored by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, now goes down the CNMI statutory books as Public Law 12-66. Before this, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands had been actively lobbying for the passage of the bill.

NMI beefs up public housing program

First-time homebuyers can now start laying the bricks in their very first dream house, after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed into law a bill that would give moderate-income earners the chance to avail of financing to buy their homes. House Bill 12-114, which establishes the Mortgage Credit Certificate Program as an enabling law to the 1984 Tax Reform Act, will now be referred to as Public Law 12-68. In his transmittal letter to legislative leaders, Tenorio said he “fully supports the concept of assisting our moderate income people in financing the purchase of their homes.” Under the new law, the program will be set up under the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., which would make available a Mortgage Credit Certificate to qualified first-time homebuyers.


Oct. 24, 2002

House to meet with MPLA on homestead moratorium


The House Committee on Natural Resources will meet with the Marianas Public Lands Authority today to tackle the moratorium on homestead applications imposed by the MPLA Board last August. Rep. Arnold Palacios, chair of the Natural Resources Committee, yesterday expressed the need to know the reasons behind the board action, which, he said, needs some clarification. “They said it’s an indefinite moratorium so we want a definition of what they specifically meant by indefinite,” added the committee chair.

CPA wants financial relief in place of port fee waiver

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is seeking the Tinian Legislative Delegation’s assistance for a financial relief in lieu of the granting of the passenger fee waiver request. This, according to CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas, would help the ports authority to effectively operate the Tinian seaport despite the anticipated reduction in revenue due to the requested waiver on passenger fee. Salas said the Tinian delegation proposal will be taken up in the upcoming CPA Board meeting. “The Board has to consider carefully the financial relief and where to get the funds.”



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
October 24 , 2012

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Mr. David Dougherty	08/08/12 SSm-2012-X-052	Beach Beautification	Garapan	Shoreline APC	Approved (09/26/2012*)
2. Mariano DLG. Fajardo	08/27/212 SSm-2012-X-056	Political Sign Board	Saipan	Shoreline APC	Approved (09/05/2012)*
3. Asia Pacific Inc	09/12/2012 SSm-2012-X-057	Beach Concession	Garapan	Shoreline APC	Under Review
4. Northern Marianas National	09/28/2012 SLRm-2012-X-058	14th Annual Micronesian Cup	Civic Susupe	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (10/17/2012)*
5. Windsurfing Saipan	10/12/2012 SLRm-2012-X-059	Marine Sports Activities	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (10/17/2012)*
6. Blue Water Tours	10/09/2012 SLRm-2012-X-060	Marine Sports Activities	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (10/17/2012)*
7. Fanther Corporation	10/15/2012 SMS-2012-X-061	Rock Quarry	Kannat Tabla	Major Siting	Under Review
8. Saipan Sea Ventures Inc.	10/16/2012 SPIm-2012-X-062	Dry Dock	Delta Dock	Ports & Industrial	Approved (10/18/2012)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

TO GENERATE SAVINGS THIS FISCAL YEAR

Programs and positions consolidated at Public Health

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several programs and a number of positions under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health have been merged to save on costs this fiscal year, according to division director Roxanne Diaz in her report to the board.

Diaz specifically cited the dissolution of the Community Guidance Center, which used to house several public health programs. This fiscal year 2013, at least eight programs under the center were combined under the new Non-Communicable Disease Bureau, or NCD Bureau.

The Pacific Islands Health Officers Association earlier declared a regional state of health emergency in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands due to the epidemic of NCDs such as diabetes, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease, stroke, gout, arthritis, and depression. There

are various programs to prevent the spread of these chronic diseases that were previously being run on their own.

To save on personnel cost, Diaz said the division secured approval from the federal granting agency to allow the performance improvement manager to oversee both the hospital and the public health quality assurance and management office.

To generate additional revenue for the corporation, federal programs offices were relocated to their own facilities, resulting in an estimated \$78,000 savings this fiscal year, she said.

Diaz said the division's proposed budget for 2013 is a significant 52-percent reduction compared the previous fiscal year's. In FY 2012, the proposed budget for the division was \$1.09 million.

Diaz said the reduction was made after 10 locally funded positions that are subject to reduction-in-force this fiscal year

were moved to federal funds. This effort, she said, will bring some \$400,000 savings to the corporation.

The corporation's proposed 2013 budget recommends a total of 25 employees for the division, for a total personnel cost of \$540,166. Of this amount, \$483,803 is for wages/salaries; \$19,352 for personnel insurance; \$29,996 for FICA contribution; and \$7,015 for Medicare contribution.

In citing the importance of making every employees aware of their responsibilities and the programs they manage, Diaz said a mandatory monthly workshop and professional development training have been set for all division employees "in order to do more leveraging and sharing of information and limited services of the corporation" in general.

Diaz claims that in the past 10 months she's been serving as Public Health director, she has found out that many past decisions were made without proper data evidence. This is one of the areas she wants to focus on in her new role.

Diaz cited the four main pillars of her leadership: financial sustainability of public health and grants management; focus-

ing on activities leading toward improved health outcomes; data management; and human re-

sources.

"Many times, we made decisions without evidence. We

usually don't use data to guide our decisions," she told the board, adding that she wants to focus on infrastructure to ensure that programs are being properly carried out and implemented.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Oteza S. Pagaduan! God bless and we love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Lusy, Trista, Bik, Roma, RJ, Jas, Mika, Mikey Boy, and Fael.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Pamela DLC. Crisostomo! Hope you have a wonderful one this year and many more to come. With lots of love, Katie.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Polly Ann Dela Cruz! Hope you have a wonderful one this year and may you have many more birthdays to come. With lots of love, Katie.

Happy second birthday to Genicia Mae T. Agulto! You've been an angel in everybody's life in some way or the other. And in our life, you've been more than anything we could ask for. We want you to have a rocking, smashing, amazing birthday with lots of love. Greetings come from Mommy, Auntie Julenne, Nina Katie, and Baby Kayven.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy 13th birthday greetings go out to Peter Paul Magat, who celebrated his special day on Oct 23, 2012. May your birthday bring a smile to your face, happiness to your heart and many blessings to your life. Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Applications for Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program due Nov. 16

HONOLULU—USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service reminds potential applicants to contact their local NRCS office to find out if they are eligible for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. Applications for the first ranking period are due at NRCS offices by close of business on Nov. 16, 2012. Applications for the second ranking period are due on Feb. 13, 2013. The NRCS Office Locator is available at www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov.

"Last year we obligated more than \$2.5 million through FRPP," said Angel Figueroa,

NRCS director of the Pacific Islands Area.

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program is a voluntary program to help farmers and ranchers preserve their agricultural land. The program provides matching funds to state, tribal, and local governments, and nongovernmental organizations with farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements.

Learn more about FRPP and find out about other NRCS services at www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov. (**USDA**)

VEHICLE FOR SALE

1998 HONDA ACCORD

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/234-5750.

Bids will be closed on
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2012 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

Bank of Guam through Counsel Robert T. Torres
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-DPW/ED-016
Submission Date: November 28, 2012 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"Provision of Four (4) Diesel Commercial Wood Chippers for the Department of Public Works, Energy Division"

The complete scope of work for this project will be available on or after October 24, 2012 and may be picked up at the Office of the Division of Energy (EECBG) located at the Springs Development Plaza or requested via email to fourwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on November 13, 2012 at 9:00 a.m., local time at the Department of Public Works Main Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, located in Middle Road, Saipan.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, on November 16, 2012 to fourwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp or via facsimile to (670) 664-4488.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Anthony A. Camacho
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/ Thelma B. Inos
Director, Energy Division

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Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing or Accounting with a minimum of 3 years experience in sales. Proven skills in product marketing and providing excellent customer service are required. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are an advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-005 SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of office supplies for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Packet may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$50.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 21, 2012**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email in PDF format, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposal will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **October 25, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this bid must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 30, 2012** to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-007 AUTOMOBILE RENTAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for Automobile Rental Services on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Packet may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$50.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Automobile Rental Services" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 19, 2012**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email in PDF format, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposal will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **October 26, 2012 at 1:00 PM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this bid must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 29, 2012** to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 253Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Do your duty this year: Exercise your right to vote

Some polls indicate that voter enthusiasm, especially among young and minority voters is ebbing—a marked change from 2008. Whomever you support for president this year, it's a concern if fewer people decide to exercise their right to have a say in the political process.

Anyone who is eligible should vote.

Voting is the one way you can have your concerns heard. As the saying goes: If you don't vote, don't complain.

And while we realize that the question of voter identification is contentious, we're glad that Wisconsin's voters will not have to contend with that during this election. That means that 300,000 eligible voters who do not have a driver's license or a state ID card, according to at least one estimate, can remain a part of the process. Election integrity is essential but there has been no evidence of widespread voter fraud. Even if there was, it couldn't be stopped with a voter ID card. In the absence of fraud, there is no reason for a voter ID law—unless the point is to discourage voting.

Consider the situation in Tennessee. On Thursday, with less than 20 days before the presidential election, a judge is still trying to determine whether the state's photo ID law is constitutional. This comes a day after voters have already begun casting early ballots for the general election.

With so little time left before the election, it could be a nightmare for any state to suddenly change its law.

In Wisconsin, a voter ID law pushed through by Republicans has been hung up in the courts. Texas, South Carolina and Pennsylvania are delaying implementation of similar laws. Wisconsin residents can still register at a polling place on election day and vote, an element of state law that we hope never changes.

And about those billboards in some low-income and minority communities and elsewhere: "Voter Fraud is a Felony," they say. That sort of intimidation should be answered en masse—by voting. Such messages are designed to confuse and discourage eligible voters from doing their duty. Answer them.

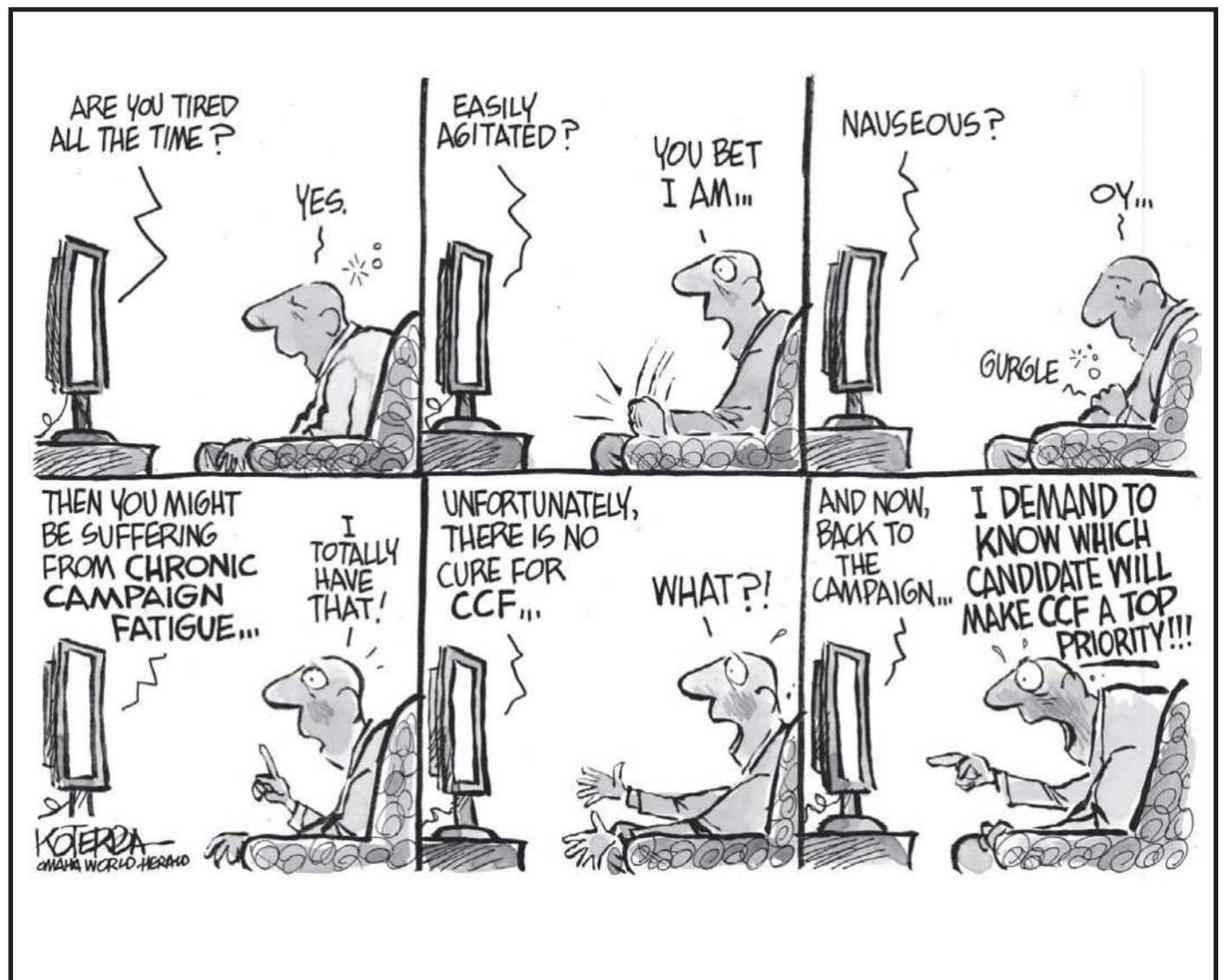
Voting needs to be free, fair and accessible to everyone. When it is, voter enthusiasm goes up because people are participants in the process.

But to ensure that people are a part of the process, they need to know their rights—what is required of them when they go to vote. And they need to know where they can quickly find the right information.

Organizations such as the League of Women Voters have traveled to many states, including Wisconsin, to pass out fliers with the latest information and get people registered. They will have volunteers at some polling places.

The American political process works best when people get to the polls and make their voices heard. Make sure you do that on Nov. 6.

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Mea culpa

Two top officials of the feds took full responsibility for what is perceived as a security breach in the Benghazi Consulate that resulted in the death of the U.S. ambassador to Libya.

President Obama, State Secretary Hillary Clinton held herself fully responsible, claimed "the buck stops here" prerogative of his office, and owned final responsibility for the "act of terror." Romney expressed dismay over what he perceived was the White House's slow behavior and lackluster response, and its abject absence of righteous indignation over the incident.

The official intelligence assessment so far is that the attack on the Benghazi Consulate and its private residence was spontaneous following Cairo's public displeasure over a low-budget American film that cast the prophet Mohammed to be no better than a lecherous old man.

That known dissidents took part and followed up the initial 9/11 outbursts in Benghazi does not make the incidence a lapse of security preparation. The issue of security for all U.S. foreign services' security around the world, especially with the current unpopularity of the Stars-and-Stripes everywhere, must continue to be a concern. More so now that we have entered the practice of employing private (vetted) security companies (allegedly British in the Benghazi case).

That the GOP has politicized the issue and is expected to dog the foreign policy theme of the third presidential debate does not come as a surprise. What surprises is when the top two CEOs acknowledge full responsibility. Obama and Hillary, both hardly in line in the daily decision making process that surrounds embassy security requirements around the world, open themselves up to accountability, but they also silence the loud voices of blame throwers and disarm the whiners of recrimination.

Could one imagine, say, Governor Fitial going on television to apologize for an unethical breach of protocol in releasing a person behind bars during off-hours so that his medical condition might be salvaged by the tactile therapy of a massage? Could one imagine, say, the former AG Ed Buckingham apologizing for a seeming lapse of legal and ethical acumen in supporting a candidate in his official capacity?

Could one imagine, say, former government officials coming clean on contracts negotiated and written while they were in office, who then resigned to assume the leadership function to implement same contracts to their obvious financial advantage?

"Not until hell freezes over" might be an expected retort but that's probably the kind of acquiescence Glen Hunter was after in organizing the corruption awareness event last Sunday. Common practices, long taken for granted, are corrupt and corrupting, and can no longer continue.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



I was once approached to assist a non-English speaking driver get a license on Saipan. I looked into the matter and was horrified to learn how easy it was for one to procure a permit through extra-normal channels. In fact, the number of "bought" licenses was staggering. Well, we now know what was obvious then, that BMV personnel had a side business. Lateral benefits extended far and wide.

We learned of other practices. Bypassing the electric meter to light up 90 percent of one's requirements was one. Illegally connecting to public water pipes, or siphoning public tanks was another. It was easy to subvert rules with the proper connections. Mavericks on public employ added substance to mercenary style when they showed wild-wild-west cowboy attitudes to circumvent regulations in attaining goals. The locals learned and native ways got sophisticated. There already were corruptive practices at hand.

The most blatant one I had to say "No" to was the practice of connecting more outlets than the only one subscribed to in cable TV! We knew of a landlord who made cable TV a come-on to her exorbitant rentals on shacks and fire hazard rooms! The practice of paying off inspectors continues to bedevil regulatory bodies.

It was nationalistic in the 19th century to screw up Spaniards. Then it was smart to make money off the Gringos, even the altruistic ones. Alertness to windows of opportunity is, after all, one of the virtues of the market economy. It was patriotic to stick it to the Japanese during WWII, more so when one had to run off to the hills when about to be caught. Corrupting and corrupt practices became valued cultural habits of subverting law and order extending past liberation. Locating the loophole was re-enforced as the rule rather than the exception.

It might be too far-fetched to tie the "mea culpa" of Obama and Hillary to the practices of corruption. But think about it. The first step to correcting anything is to acknowledge its objective reality without rancor and then deciding what to do about it. The awarding of security contracts is definitely now under review, and, perhaps, awarding sole-source contracts to deliver public services, particularly utilities and health, may not be such a smart move after all.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**‘Help write Wikipedia in Chamorro’**

I write in response to John DelRosario Jr.’s column, “Is the Chamorro Language Dead?” I discovered the column this morning as I was adding information to Wikipedia from the Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity Newsfeed, <http://www.rnld.org/news>.

Because I process books at the Library of Congress in my day job, I have become very interested in ensuring that we have basic reference materials in all languages. Reading Wikipedia articles in multiple languages has really helped me as a cataloger, because the second or third language reinforces my memory and understanding of the topic in the article. I’ve become active as a volunteer Wikipedia editor working on the endangered language articles, and recruiting people from endangered language communities to edit Wikipedia.

I know that one of the ways I developed the skills I use in my career was by reading the encyclopedia as a child, and I’d like all kids to be able to do the same thing. We have a Wikipedia in Chamorro, which has some very basic content. I don’t know if it is in your preferred orthography—but if not, you can add articles using the spellings and alphabet you prefer, as it is fine to use multiple orthographies to get started. (At some later date, people can transcribe the different versions to have both alphabets).

If you would be interested in adding some content to the Chamorro Language Wikipedia, here is the link: Chamorro Wikipedia <http://ch.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fanhaluman>. There is no deadline for Wikipedia and you can start on any topic you wish. It’s fine to translate from another Wikipedia, including Simple English, if you don’t want to write original pieces (Simple Wikipedia http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page).

If you find it difficult to work with the Wikipedia editing site, you could e-mail articles to me, or to another Wikipdia, and we can post them for you. It can also be fun to have a Wikipedia Meetup, where the young folks bring laptops and work on articles. I’ve gone to several of these events at the Smithsonian this month. All the best with your efforts in the Chamorro language!

Kristin Anderson

kristin.anderson@wikimediadc.org
Board member, Wikimedia DC

To Vic-Terry

I would like to ask Fitial’s two Rota candidates about how they felt when Fitial called the people of Rota and Tinian “stupid” earlier this year. How can you run under a governor who disrespects and calls our Rota and Tinian brothers and sisters “stupid”? Governor, the people of Luta and Tinian are not “stupid.” You better look in the mirror before you talk. Obviously, Teresita Santos does not care about the governor disrespecting her constituents because she voted to keep him in office.

To view Fitial in action, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLh0vUYPD1g&noredirect=1>

Antonio Aldan

Kagman, Saipan

Language barrier

Speaker Cabrera: I was born and raised on the island of Saipan. As I grew up, I attended school with kids of different ethnicities: Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, Chamorros, and Carolinians and learned many languages. I’m fluent in many and can understand some.

I watched the impeachment hearings last night and was appalled that you allowed the people in the forum to address the public in language other than English. Shame on you and how inconsiderate. Mr. Cabrera, this island is a commonwealth of the United States of America and is dependent on contributions from the United States.

I will suggest this: Please send ALL correspondence to the United States of America in Chamorro and see how many dollars you receive.

Hector Delgado

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Problems with cushy pension

With a sense of despair retirees meet occasionally in clusters, discussing what happens in March 2014 when pension checks stop coming altogether. How would they meet basic needs, medical attention and other family obligations?

A lot is riding on this check, including payment for real estate loan (family home), family car, health insurance that includes purchase of critical medication, costly utilities, among others.

It means (when nothing’s done to resuscitate the financial sustainability of the Fund) that some \$60 million to \$65 million in annual payout spent in the local economy would disappear. It would bring down an already unsettling decline in revenue streams. Thus we can expect another revenue decline in fiscal year 2014. Very unsettling! It’s the instant fatal hardship that this bankruptcy would reap against retirees.

The withdrawal of contributions by members who want out of the system isn’t helping as the Fund’s corpus is drained. Unsettling, though, that when there’s no corresponding contribution to cushion it then the navel where retirees drink water bimonthly goes dry!

Billions of dollars in debt

The NMI isn’t alone trying to figure out how to deal with its cushy pension program. The NMI owes the Fund some \$320 million. Here’s what other states in the union have in terms of unfunded liability. They are: California, \$100 billion in Public Employees’ Retirement System and \$65 million in State Teachers’ Retirement System; Illinois, \$85 billion; New Jersey, \$41.7 billion; Kentucky, \$30 billion; and Louisiana, \$18 billion, among others.

Each state is working diligently to decrease the cost of cushy pension programs by increasing the retirement age, limiting annual pension payouts, and requiring workers who are not contributing half of their retirement costs to pay more. For once, the NMI must retain real experts to see how the cushy pension could be worked out in order to allow its long-term sustainability. In other words, we can’t afford living beyond our means!

Now there are proposals on the table for a pension obligation bond or the sale of developed public land to pay off the Fund’s unfunded liability. If this loan is to pay off current debts, then it won’t be a corresponding contribution to provide sustainability to the Fund, right? It’s analogous to resetting the Fund’s unfunded liabilities anew. So it isn’t an answer is it?

Do we sell more public land when the Fund goes belly up down the stretch? Can we really dictate disposition of land sale against the will of the new owner if he wants to dispose of it? How about allowing those of us with genealogy to own inherited land first? How about first things first?

How do we deal with debt service on POB (pension obligation bond) when local revenue streams decline further? How do we muddle through when our government is in severe fiscal calamity? Perhaps it’s time to take a fiscal retreat, true?

Romney’s approach on China smacks of overkill

By **E. THOMAS MCCLANAHAN**

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

In last week’s debate, President Barack Obama turned to Republican Mitt Romney and said, “Governor, you’re the last person who’s going to get tough on China.”

I hope Obama is right.

The tougher-than-thou poses on China have become routine in presidential campaigns, but these threats, if carried out, could hit American consumers with higher prices and spark damaging tit-for-tat responses from Beijing.

Obama, with his ties to organized labor, was always expected to be a reluctant free trader. He’s lived up, or down, to expectations. He took forever to send trade treaties with Colombia, Panama and South Korea to Congress and he brags about Chinese imports he’s whacked with tariffs, such as tires.

In his State of the Union address earlier this year, he claimed the tire tariffs had saved more than 1,000 jobs. If so, it came at a high price: The Peterson Institute for International Economics concluded that last year, Obama’s tariffs probably destroyed more than 2,500 jobs and cost U.S. consumers more than \$1 billion in higher prices. The low-end U.S. tire market simply shifted to new suppliers in Mexico and Asia.

Republicans have traditionally been more keen on opening markets, as opposed to bashing imports. But Romney, at least outwardly, sounds as if he plans to depart from that pattern. He promises to label China a currency manipulator on day one, a move that could open the door to a range of tariffs on Chinese exports—likely whacking American consumers with higher prices.

It’s an odd phenomenon in politics that sometimes, concern about a problem seems most intense just as the problem has begun to abate. That seems true of immigration, to cite one example. Pew Research concludes that last year migration from Mexico had probably reached net zero and may now be negative. Yet immigration

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.

**Smile...you’ll see the sun...**

It’s a classic that encourages us to smile amidst adversity in our daily trials and tribulations. It was sung by one of Michael Jackson’s brothers when the iconic rock star died. The late Nat King Cole made it popular long time ago. What beautiful melody and lyrics.

The song took me no further than the hardship most folks have to endure these days wrought by the economic meltdown. Admittedly, the destructive forces are both from within and without. The prediction of a slower global economic growth in 2013 by the IMF and World Bank isn’t helping my faint sense of optimism that something would break for the better.

But hailing from a resource-poor archipelago, we’re used to living and muddling through thick and thin, conquering all with ultra-resiliency. We didn’t have much but we were happy campers. We had our family farms and a huge lagoon to fetch and gather food from daily. We still gather around family farms but hardly do we visit the lagoon. Not when federal regulations have literally annihilated traditional fishing. There’s greater emphasis on regulations than the perpetuation of our traditional way of catching fish for the family table. Out the window goes one smile.

Indeed, many of my peer groups grew up poor kids who had to dig dirt to survive. Yes, I have seen the ugly fangs of poverty and misery. It’s sheer hardship from sunlight to sunset. Too, through the years we’ve seen changes brought forth by the demands of modernity. That we’re situated geographically in the typhoon belt necessarily had families building concrete dwellings that are safe and sanitary.

Later, we found out that, safe as they are for inclement weather, it’s actually a huge version of an oven that requires air-conditioning. It also means the use of large amounts of water for our bathrooms and family needs. The pile of costs and discomfort it wrought is nothing to smile about.

Things have gone off course so severely that even if we smile, the mounting pain simply overpowers the tranquility we seek in our prayerful silence and meditation. How I wish I could see the “sun coming shining through...” for most who have literally been beaten by hardship and misery. Until hardship eases, then and only then could we find a reason to smile, right? Nah! Smile no matter the adversity. It’s good for our health.

fears loomed large in the Republican primary debates.

Worries that the Chinese will wreck us economically echo similar concerns about Japan in the 1980s—fears that were still intense just before Japan’s property and stock markets collapsed. Eventually, the Japan-bashing in Washington ceased and the flood of books about the enigmatic Japanese political system dried up.

China may soon be mired in deep problems of its own.

It has overinvested in real estate and infrastructure. Some economists believe its economy is a bubble on the verge of popping.

Thanks in large part to its one-child policy, China’s society is aging rapidly, its workforce is expected to begin shrinking in five years, its labor costs are rising fast—and its trade surplus is plummeting.

China still runs a big surplus with the United States—about \$295 billion last year—but not globally. Five years ago its global surplus was about 10 percent of its economy. The International Monetary Fund predicts that by the end of this year, it will be only 2.3 percent—a huge drop in a very short time.

Managing our relationship with China will be one of the toughest challenges facing whoever sits in the Oval Office next year.

Beijing is increasingly prone to playing the most belligerent sort of nationalistic card, as is evident from its bullying behavior in disputes with its neighbors over South China Sea island chains.

Washington has room to be more assertive with Beijing, not only in light of its antagonistic regional behavior but over intellectual piracy, its opaque domestic markets and its export subsidies.






Such matters are best handled via filings with the World Trade Organization, which exists not only to settle such matters but diffuse the dangerous tensions often sparked by trade spats. In any case, Romney would be better advised to shift his emphasis from curbing China’s exports to prying open its domestic markets.

E. Thomas McClanahan is a member of the Kansas City Star editorial board.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

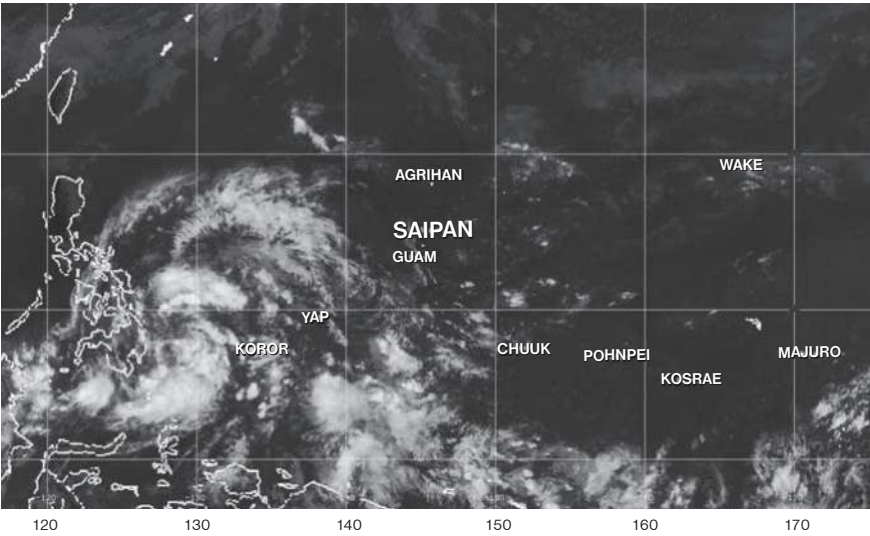
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 51
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 41
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 73
London	Fog	▲ 59 ▼ 54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 53
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 60
Miami	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 75
New York	Showers	▲ 66 ▼ 55
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 55
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 48
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 56
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 58
Salem	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 39
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 52
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 56
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 60

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:29 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The near-equatorial trough extends from a Tropical Depression east of the Philippines near 9N129E through the Republic of Palau to another weak circulation centered southeast of Yap at 5N143E to end at EQ150E. An area of scattered showers and thunderstorms east of the tropical depression is present from 4N to 13N and west of 133E. Some outer bands containing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also occurring across Palau and farther to the north from 3N to 17N between 133E and 136E and also from 10N to 16N between 136E and 140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorm are occurring around the weakly organized circulation farther to the southeast from the equator to 7N between 138E and 146E. Elsewhere high pressure and drier trade-wind flow dominate. A weak line of convection exists within 50 miles of a line along 10N from 148E to 165E just north of Chuuk and Pohnpei and an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms exists southeast of the Marshalls from the equator to 5N between 170E and 177E both in weak trade-wind convergence. Low-level cloudiness and scattered showers associated with a dissipating shear line remains north and east of the Northern Marianas from 18N to 20N between 150E and 176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	5:50 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:01 PM	1:15 AM
Thursday	2:42 PM	2:08 AM
Friday	3:21 PM	2:59 AM
Saturday	4:00 PM	3:48 AM
Sunday	4:40 PM	4:37 AM

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

All schools invited to tourism summit on Oct. 30

The Marianas Tourism Education Council is inviting all schools with MY WAVE clubs to join the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012.

The event is part of the council's ongoing educational outreach to public and private schools students on the importance of tourism and their role in the visitor industry. This year's summit will be held from 9am to 1:30pm at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"The guest speakers will have the opportunity to influence and guide the students who are attending the tourism summit" said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "Whether they discuss airlines or hotels, we have to continue teaching about the importance of tourism in the CNMI."

Individuals and organizations interested in joining MTEC may contact MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3210. The summit is funded by the Office of Insular Affairs through a grant awarded with the assistance of the Office of Delegate Gregorio Killili C. Sablan to the Marianas Visitors Authority. The summit is also sponsored by the CNMI Public School System. (MTEC)

Right, Hopwood Jr. High student Timothy Villanueva receives a Saipan-da bag for assisting with the educational presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council at his school on Oct. 10, 2012. The 7th grader shared his knowledge of the industry with fellow students during the presentation. Pictured from left are MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, Villanueva, and MTEC member Catherine Perry.



MTEC

Math students at Kagman High School had the opportunity to win prizes during the Oct. 18, 2012, presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council. MTEC shared the importance of the visitor industry, as well as most recent visitor arrival statistics; comparative on-island expenditures and length of stay for Japanese, Koreans, Chinese, and Russian; and the impact of foreign exchange rates for those visitors. In picture are Allan Aguon, teacher William "Bill" Sizemore, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, Tracy Crisostomo, Tracy Pelep, and Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Frank Tudela, and other students.



MTEC

Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente engages Hopwood Jr. High students during a presentation on Oct. 10, 2012. Hopwood Jr. High has the largest MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) club in the Northern Marianas.



GUAM OUTREACH

In its key promotional outreach to Guam this year, the Marianas Visitors Authority reached out to approximately 850 military personnel and their families who attended the U.S. Navy Travel Fair and the U.S. Air Force Travel Fair in Guam in early October 2012. The MVA also exhibited at the annual Micronesian Travel Fair with hundreds more in attendance. Maps, brochures and promotional flyers for the Northern Marianas' annual sports events were distributed.

MVA

Business

Retirement worries grow; 30-somethings most uneasy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Younger Americans in their late 30s are now the group most likely to doubt they will be financially secure after retirement, a major shift from three years ago when baby boomers nearing retirement age expressed the greatest worry.

The survey findings by the Pew Research Center, released Monday, reflect the impact of a weak economic recovery beginning in 2009 that has shown stock market gains while housing values remain decimated.

As a whole, retirement worries rose across all age groups—roughly 38 percent of U.S. adults say they are “not too” or “not at all” confident that they will have sufficiently sized financial nest eggs, according to the independent research group. That’s up from 25 percent in 2009.

But the concerns are increasing the greatest among younger adults approaching middle age, whose equity in their homes represents most of their net worth. About 49 percent of those ages 35-44 said they had little or no confidence that they will have enough money for retirement, more than double the 20 percent share in that age group who said so in 2009.

Baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964 also reported having more retirement anxieties than before, but now to a lesser degree compared to their younger counterparts. About 43 percent of Americans ages 45-54 expressed little or no trust in their retirement security, up from 33 percent in 2009. Among Americans ages 55-64, the share expressing little or no confidence was 39 percent, up from 26 percent.

Broken down by smaller groups, the Pew analysis found that retirement worries peaked among adults in their late 30s; a majority, or 53 percent, of Americans ages 36 to 40 lacked confidence that they will have large enough nest eggs. Just three years ago, it was baby boomers ages 51 to 55 who had the most anxiety over whether their income and assets would be sufficient.

Richard Morin, a senior editor at Pew who co-authored the report, said the shift in attitudes was somewhat surprising.

“I think most people would expect those on the cusp of retirement—ages 55 to 64—would be the most concerned about financing their retirement, (so) the finding that the peak is now occurring among adults roughly 20 years younger is notable,” he said. “Moreover, the wealth data showing those approaching or in early middle age had lost the most in the past decade suggests that their concerns are not misplaced.”

BOH posts net income of \$41M in 3Q

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii Corporation reported diluted earnings per share of \$0.92 for the third quarter of 2012, up \$0.02 from diluted earnings per share of \$0.90 in the second quarter of 2012 and unchanged from diluted earnings per share of \$0.92 in the third quarter of 2011. Net income for the third quarter was \$41.2 million, up \$0.5 million compared to net income of \$40.7 million in the previous quarter, and down \$2.1 million from net income of \$43.3 million in the same quarter last year.

Loans grew 2.0 percent during the third quarter with loan and lease balances increasing to \$5.78 billion at September 30, 2012. Total deposits declined during the third quarter of 2012 due to management’s planned reduction in government time deposits. The net interest margin remained stable at 2.98 percent. The allowance for loan and lease losses decreased by \$1.5 million to \$131.0 million and represented 2.27 percent of outstanding loans and leases at September 30, 2012.

“Bank of Hawaii Corporation had good results for the third

quarter of 2012,” said Peter S. Ho, Chairman, President, and CEO. “We were pleased to see the growth in total loans this quarter and strong mortgage banking results. Our overall credit quality is improving, which allowed us to further reduce our reserves. Capital continues to be strong.”

The return on average assets for the third quarter of 2012 was 1.22 percent, up from 1.19 percent in the second quarter of 2012. The return on average equity for the third quarter was 16.02 percent compared to 16.19 percent for the previous quarter. The efficiency ratio for the third quarter of 2012 was 58.13 percent compared to 56.77 percent in the previous quarter.

For the nine months ended Sept. 30, 2012, net income was \$125.8 million, up \$5.0 million compared to net income of \$120.8 million for the same period last year. Diluted earnings per share were \$2.77 for the nine-month period in 2012, up \$0.23 from diluted earnings per share of \$2.54 for the same period in 2011. The year-to-date return on average assets was 1.23 percent compared to 1.24 percent for the

same period in 2011. The year-to-date return on average equity was 16.49 percent, up from 15.85 percent for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The efficiency ratio for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2012 was 57.76 percent, down from 58.86 percent for the same period last year.

Results for the nine months ended Sept. 30, 2012 included a gain of \$3.5 million on the early termination of leveraged leases for two cargo ships offset by a loss of \$1.0 million on the sale of an aircraft lease, expenses of \$1.2 million for the final phase of a refresh of the Company’s personal computers, and expenses of \$1.0 million related to the launch of a new consumer credit card product. Results for the same period in 2011 included net gains of \$6.1 million on the sales of investment securities and a gain of \$2.0 million related to a contingent payment from the sale of the Company’s proprietary mutual funds in 2010. These gains were offset by a litigation settlement of \$9.0 million and a \$2.0 million donation to the Bank of Hawaii Foundation. (BOH)

FedEx sees online shoppers powering holiday record



In this Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012 photo, a FedEx McDonnell Douglas MD-11F cargo jet taxis on the runway after landing at Miami International Airport in Miami.

NEW YORK (AP)—FedEx expects to ship a record number of packages during the holidays, thanks to shoppers’ growing fondness for buying online.

The world’s second-largest package delivery company expects to handle 280 million shipments between Thanksgiving and Christmas, up 13 percent from the same stretch last year.

The forecast, released Monday, comes against a background of lackluster growth in the global economy. FedEx has warned the economy is stalling and expects conditions to get worse next year. It’s making big cuts in the businesses that have been the hardest hit, including its Express unit that moves top-priority shipments by air.

But the number of shipments FedEx handles at the holidays has climbed steadily along with the growth of internet purchases. The volume of packages it handles on its busiest day, which varies according to Christmas shipping deadlines, has nearly doubled since 2005.

On FedEx’s busiest day this year, projected to be Dec. 10, it forecasts 19 million packages will move through its network, up 10 percent from 2011. That’s in line with the increase FedEx has seen in years with normal growth rates, noted Deutsche Bank analyst Justin Yagerman. FedEx’s holiday shipment growth has ranged from 4.3 percent to 18.3 percent since 2006.

Holiday shipments this year will be driven by sales of personal electronics, apparel, luxury goods and items from large internet retailers, FedEx said.

Overall holiday sales are projected to rise 4.1 percent, according to The National Retail Federation. That would be the smallest increase since 2009, but still higher than the 10-year average of 3.5 percent.

Online holiday sales will grow 16.8 percent, excluding travel purchases, according to research firm eMarketer. Online shopping accounts for about \$1 in every \$10 spent over the holidays.

FedEx and larger rival UPS Inc. can benefit twice when consumers shop online: They ship the gift to the receiver, and they also ship the unwanted presents that are later returned. UPS, which is based in Atlanta, hasn’t yet released its holiday forecast.

FedEx moves the bulk of its cheaper, lighter weight shipments from online and catalog retailers through its SmartPost service, a partnership with the U.S. Postal Service.

FedEx SmartPost has been a huge driver of growth for the company since it was formed. Average daily package volume grew 18 percent in the fiscal first quarter ended in August, more than three times the growth rate of FedEx’s overall ground shipments in the U.S.

The ground segment, which moves mostly non-priority shipments by truck, has held up despite slower growth around the globe as consumers and businesses opt for slower methods of shipping to save money.

FedEx, which is based in Memphis, Tenn., plans to hire 20,000 seasonal workers to help handle the surge—the same as last year.

Smaller iPad expected Tuesday, but at what price?

NEW YORK (AP)—Those who follow Apple believe they have figured out most of the particulars of a smaller iPad expected to be revealed on Tuesday. One big question remains, though: What will it cost?

Apple hasn’t said anything about the device, but the veil of secrecy it throws over unreleased products has been a see-through affair this year. Most of the details of the iPhone 5 were known well in advance of its launch a month ago.

In the case of the “iPad Mini” (the real name is not known), tech bloggers and analysts expect a device with a screen measuring 7.85 inches on the diagonal, making it about half the size of the regular iPad. It would be slightly larger than the 7-inch tablets it’s presumably designed to compete with, including Amazon.com Inc.’s Kindle Fire and Google Inc.’s Nexus 7.

The Kindle Fire starts at \$159, and the Nexus 7 at \$199. Meanwhile, Apple sells the iPad 2 for \$399 and the 4-inch iPod Touch for \$199. Company watchers are pegging the price of the smaller iPad somewhere in between.

Most of the guesses range from \$249 to \$299, but the blog 9to5Mac said Monday that the price would be \$329.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
13,345.89
+2.38
+0.02%

S&P
1,433.82
+0.63
+0.04%

NASDAQ
3,016.96
+11.33
+0.38%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7502	Philippine Peso	41.3200
Australian Dollar	0.9688	Singapore Dollar	1.2213
British Pound	0.6245	South Korean Won	1,103.47
Canadian Dollar	0.9927	Swiss Franc	0.9275
Chinese Yuan	6.2519	Taiwan Dollar	29.2720
Euro	0.7660	Thailand Baht	30.7100

Nation

Foreign policy fireworks: Face-off before election

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)—President Barack Obama sharply challenged Mitt Romney on foreign policy in their final campaign debate Monday night, accusing him of “wrong and reckless leadership that is all over the map.” The Republican coolly responded, “Attacking me is not an agenda” for dealing with a dangerous world.

With just 15 days remaining in an impossibly close race for the White House, Romney took the offensive, too. When Obama said the U.S. and its allies have imposed crippling sanctions on Iran to halt nuclear weapons development, the Republican challenger responded that the U.S. should have done more. He declared repeatedly, “We’re four years closer to a nuclear Iran.”

Though their third and last face-to-face debate was focused on foreign affairs, both men reprised their campaign-long disagreements over the U.S. economy—the top issue by far in opinion polls—as well as energy, education and other domestic issues.

The two men did find accord on more than one occasion when it came to foreign policy.

Each stressed unequivocal support for Israel when asked about a U.S. response if the Jewish state were attacked by Iran.

“If Israel is attacked, we have their back,” said Romney—moments after Obama vowed, “I will stand with Israel if Israel is attacked.”

Both also said they oppose direct U.S. military involvement in the efforts to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The debate produced none of the finger-pointing and little of the interrupting that marked the presidential rivals’ debate last week, when Obama needed a comeback after a listless performance in their first meeting on Oct. 3.

The final debate behind them, both men are embarking on a home-stretch whirlwind of campaigning. The president is slated to speak in six states during a two-day trip that begins Wednesday and includes a night aboard Air Force One as it flies from Las Vegas to Tampa. Romney intends to visit two or three states a day.

Already four million ballots have been cast in early voting in more than two dozen states.

Obama appears on course to win states and the District of Columbia that account for 237 of the 270 electoral votes needed for victory. The same is true for Romney in states with 191 electoral votes. The battlegrounds account for the remaining 110 electoral votes: Florida (29), North Carolina (15), Virginia (13), New Hampshire (4), Iowa (6), Colorado (9), Nevada (6), Ohio (18) and Wisconsin (10).

On Monday night, Obama said more than once that Rom-



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama walks past each other on stage at the end of the last debate at Lynn University, Monday, Oct. 22, 2012, in Boca Raton, Fla.

Analysis: Combative Obama finds subdued Romney

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama came ready Monday for a fighting finish, deriding Mitt Romney as reckless and overmatched in world affairs. Instead he found a subdued challenger who was eager to agree and determined to show he was not a warmonger.

Romney starkly moderated his tone and his approach in the closing debate. Playing it safe, he tried not to unnerve undecided voters who are wary of another U.S.-led war, or to upend a race that remains remarkably tight with two weeks to go.

No moment was more telling than when Romney had a clear opening to respond to Obama’s lecture that he was wrong and irresponsible on foreign affairs. He responded by giving his five-point plan for fixing the economy, leading to a bizarre exchange that took the debate wildly off topic.

It showed how much the commander in chief was in his comfort zone, where the challenger regretted that he was not in his.

The last debate turned into a mirror of the first one, when Romney had been the aggressor and Obama was intent not to fiercely challenge him. Even in trying to outline differences with Obama, Romney often started by agreeing with him. Suddenly, it was Romney the Republican who was talking about supporting economies abroad, while Obama the Democrat warned against nation-building.

From drones to Afghanistan to Syria, Romney and Obama spoke in agreement on goals, if not strategy.

The president’s biggest vulnerability—last month’s deadly assault on the U.S. Consulate in Libya, and all the unanswered questions that surround it—barely surfaced. Romney seemed to pass on the opportunity to assail Obama’s leadership and shifting messages on the attack.

Obama accomplished portraying himself as a world leader, facing a former governor who he said had offered positions that sent a mixed, and unsettling, message to allies and the American people.

He did so at times mockingly, but faced little

fire in return.

“I know you haven’t been in a position to actually execute foreign policy, but every time you’ve offered an opinion, you’ve been wrong,” Obama told Romney.

He needled Romney the businessman for complaining that today’s Navy is smaller now than at any time since 1917, trying to hold Romney up as ignorant and unfit for the job.

“Well, governor, we also have fewer horses and bayonets because the nature of our military’s changed. We have these things called aircraft carriers, where planes land on them.”

Romney’s clearest points were to try to turn Obama’s most aggressive moments against him, and to outline a more comprehensive strategy for combatting the extremism that has roiled the Middle East and North Africa. Even then, his tone stood out. Politely.

“Well, of course I don’t concur with what the president said about my own record and the things that I’ve said,” he said. “They don’t happen to be accurate. ... Attacking me is not an agenda.”

With the race extremely tight and several states hanging in the balance, Romney sought to show he was reassuring, poised and in essence, presidential.

Yet he seemed to lose some of the edge that gave his campaign a bump in the first debate.

Trying to capitalize on the mood of voters, Obama has campaigned as the leader who ends the wars, not the guy who begins new ones. Romney tried to combat that by saying, for example, that he would not get the United States involved militarily in Syria even though he wants to find a way to arm the opposition.

Yet millions of viewers at home were often left to discern exactly how much Romney and Obama differ in a world of diplomacy that is enormously difficult and nuanced.

Before the debate, Romney aides said they believed viewers would, above all, be looking for Romney to demonstrate leadership and confidence. His answers often appeared driven to show he understand the regions, players and challenges at play instead of undermining the president’s positions on them.

forces are on track to enable the U.S. and its allies to put the Afghans fully in charge of security by the end of 2014. He said that U.S. forces should complete their withdrawal on that schedule; previously he has criticized the setting of a specific withdrawal date.

When it came to Iran, Romney stressed that war is a last option to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon, softening the hawkish tone that had been a hallmark of his campaign.

And Romney barely addressed the simmering dispute over the administration’s handling of the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans.

But the debate was hardly all sweetness and light.

On the Middle East, Romney said that despite early hopes, the ouster of despotic regimes in Egypt, Libya and elsewhere over the past year has resulted in a “rising tide of chaos.” He said the president has failed to come up with a coherent policy to grapple with change sweeping the region, and he added ominously that an al-Qaida-like group has taken over northern Mali.

Anticipating one of Obama’s most frequent campaign assertions, Romney said of the man seated nearby, “I congratulate him on taking out Osama bin Laden and taking on the leadership of al-Qaida. But we can’t kill our way out of this mess. ... We must have a comprehensive and robust strategy.”

More than a half hour later, Obama returned to the subject, saying that Romney had once said it wasn’t worth moving heaven and earth to catch one man, a reference to the mastermind behind the 9/11 terror attacks.

“You said we should ask Pakistan for permission,” Obama said. “And if we had asked Pakistan permission, we would not have gotten him. And it was worth moving heaven and earth to get him.”

The president said he had ended the war in Iraq, was on a path to end the U.S. combat role in Afghanistan and has vowed to bring justice to the Benghazi attackers.

He also jabbed at Romney’s having said during the campaign that Russia is the United States’ No. 1 geopolitical foe.

“Governor, when it comes to our foreign policy you seem to want the policies of the 1980s, just like you want to import the social policies of the 1950s and the economic policies in the 1920s,” Obama said.

Obama took a mocking tone after Romney, criticizing the administration’s Pentagon budget, said disapprovingly the U.S. Navy has fewer ships than at any time since the end of World War I.

ACROSS THE NATION

11-year-old accused in Maine baby death arraigned

SKOWHEGAN, Maine (AP)—The youngest person to be charged with homicide in Maine in at least 30 years—and possibly ever—twiddled her fingers, bit her nails and looked down on Monday during her first court appearance. Afterward, her attorney said the manslaughter charge was “too harsh” for someone so young. The girl was charged over the summer at age 10 with juvenile manslaughter in the death of 3-month-old Brooklyn Foss-Greenaway, who was staying overnight in the girl’s home in Fairfield in the care of the girl’s mother. The girl, now 11, entered a juvenile plea called “no answer,” which is neither a denial nor admission of the charges. The girl’s mother called police early on July 8 to report that the infant was not breathing, authorities said. The infant, who was reportedly fussy, was sleeping in a portable crib in the 10-year-old’s bedroom that night, said the infant’s mother, Nicole “Nicki” Greenaway of Clinton.

‘Little czar’ in Ohio school drug ring gets prison

LEBANON, Ohio (AP)—A teenager convicted of selling up to \$20,000 worth of high-grade marijuana a month to high school students in southwestern Ohio was sentenced Monday to serve six months to three years in a juvenile prison by a judge who called him “a pretty fine young person that went down a bad trail.” Tyler Pagenstecher of Mason was taken into custody immediately after the hearing and will be turned over to Ohio’s Department of Youth Services. The agency ultimately will decide how long the 18-year-old Pagenstecher will be in prison, depending on his behavior. “He’s not going home today,” Judge Thomas Lipps said, explaining that the charges against Pagenstecher were too serious for him to avoid prison time. The Associated Press is naming Pagenstecher because of the seriousness of the crimes and because teen’s identity quickly became public following the announcement of the charges against him when he was 17.

Louisiana woman says 3 racist men set her on fire

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A 20-year-old black woman told police she was set on fire by three men who wrote the initials KKK and a racial slur on her car in northeastern Louisiana. Louisiana State Police spokeswoman Lt. Julie Lewis says Sharmeka Moffitt was found with burns on more than half of her body when police responded to her 911 call Sunday night. Moffitt was in critical condition Monday at a hospital. Lewis said the FBI is investigating the attack as a possible hate crime, but that no arrests had been made as of late Monday.

ney had been “all over the map” with his positions. And not necessarily putting new distance between the two men.

In fact, Romney offered rare praise for the administration’s war efforts in Afghanistan.

The former Massachusetts

governor said the 2010 surge of 33,000 U.S. troops was a success and asserted that efforts to train Afghan security

Asia

Land battles surface in Myanmar as reforms unfold

MINGALADON, Myanmar (AP)—The landscape of Mingaladon township on the northern outskirts of Myanmar's main city tells a story of economic upheaval. Skeletons of factories for a new industrial zone rise from thick green rice paddies local farmers say were seized by one of Myanmar's most powerful companies.

The fight over land in Mingaladon is one of many such battles in Myanmar. Human rights groups say land battles are intensifying because companies tied to the military and business elite are rushing to grab land as the country emerges from five decades of isolation and opens its economy. Not only that. The political change sweeping through Myanmar means farmers and others are challenging land confiscations in ways that were unimaginable just a few years ago.

One Sunday in July, some 200 farmers took to the streets of Yangon, the main city, to protest the Mingaladon land acquisition by the Zaykabar Company. It was the first legal protest to be held in Myanmar since a 1988 uprising against military rule was crushed and came just days after parliament passed a new law allowing peaceful demonstrations. In the past, protesters have been arrested or shot.

Two months after the July



In this photo taken on Sept. 15, 2012, Hnin Nandar stands along with her cow near her farmland at Mingaladon township, northern outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar.

protest, dozens of farmers crowded into the shabby, two-story home of a protest leader to sign and thumbprint petitions asking Zaykabar for more money.

"The farmers know their rights and dare to demand their rights," said Htet Htet Oo Wai, a former political prisoner who has joined the fight over Mingaladon. "They didn't dare do that kind of thing two years ago," she said.

One of those farmers, Myint Thein, 56, pointed to a metal shed going up on the 15 acres his family used to tend. He said he got no money for the land back in 1997 when the Zaykabar Company began work on a 5,000-acre township, with a large industrial zone, office towers, a mall, some 4,000 residential bungalows and a 21-hole golf course.

Farmers such as Myint Thein couldn't fight back then. They

weren't only ranged against Zaykabar. The company had the backing of the state and was developing the area through a joint venture with the government. Zaykabar paid the government around 14 billion kyat for the land—about \$50 million then—and farmers say they saw none of it.

"At the time, you couldn't say anything," Myint Thein said. "We'd been farming for our whole life," he said. "It was

like our hands were broken."

Before Myanmar's political reforms began, its military junta exercised unfettered power and in the state-dominated economy the ruling generals had the last word on who owned what. The new government still owns all farmland and while it has made efforts to clarify land use rights it might also have reinforced avenues for small landholders to be dispossessed by the well-connected and powerful.

Myanmar passed two new land laws this year, which have been sharply criticized by human rights groups for the broad power they grant the government to requisition land in the national interest. The Asian Human Rights Commission told the United Nations that Myanmar was at risk of a "land-grabbing epidemic" if the laws aren't changed.

Tibetan man in his 50s sets himself on fire

BEIJING (AP)—A Tibetan man in his 50s set himself on fire and died at a prominent monastery in northwestern China in the latest such protest against Chinese rule over the Himalayan region, a London-based rights group said.

Free Tibet said the man identified as Dhondup set fire to himself near the prayer hall at the remote Labrang Monastery in Gansu province Monday.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted a provincial government official as saying a 63-year-old herdsman set himself ablaze at the monastery around 9 a.m. Monday. The report did not give the man's name or say whether he survived.

The monastery is one of the most important outside of Tibet and was the site of numerous protests by monks following deadly ethnic riots in Tibet in 2008 that were the most sustained Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule in decades.

Free Tibet said Monday's self-immolation was the first to take place there, and that there have been heavy restrictions in place in the area in recent months.

Citing a witness, it said the

monastery manager and other monks prevented police from taking Dhondup's body.

Calls to the government in Xiahe County, the Xiahe Communist Propaganda Department and Xiahe Public Security Bureau rang unanswered.

Dozens of Tibetans have set themselves on fire since March 2011 in ethnic Tibetan areas of China in protest over what activists say is Beijing's heavy-handed rule in the region. Many have called for the return of their spiritual leader, the exiled Dalai Lama. The government has confirmed some, but not all, of the self-immolations.

Chinese authorities routinely deny Tibetan claims of repression and have accused supporters of the Dalai Lama of encouraging the self-immolations. The Dalai Lama and representatives of the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile in India say they oppose all violence.

"Tibetan protests are escalating," Free Tibet director Stephanie Brigden said in a statement. "Dhondup is the eighth Tibetan in the last month alone who has risked his life to protest Chinese rule; seven of the eight have died."

South Korean activists float leaflets into NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean activists floated balloons carrying tens of thousands of anti-Pyongyang leaflets into North Korea, eluding police who had disrupted an earlier launch attempt due to threats from North Korea.

North Korea's military warned last week that it would strike if the South Korean activists carried through with their plan, and South Korea pledged to retaliate if it was attacked.

South Korean police, citing security concerns, had sent hundreds of officers Monday to seal off roads and prevent the activists and other people from gathering at an announced launch site near the border. Residents in the area were also asked to evacuate to underground facilities, according to local official

Kim Jin-a.

Later in the day, some of the activists, mostly North Korean defectors, moved to another site near the border that was not guarded by police and launched the balloons. They had described the police response as a surrender.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said there were no suspicious activities from North Korea's military.

Before acting Monday, the South Korean government had implored activists to stop their campaign but had cited freedom of speech in not making further attempts to intervene. South Korean activists have sent leaflets across the border in the past, and North Korea has issued similar threats to attack without following through.

Seoul's Yonhap news agency reported Monday that the ban on entering the border area was imposed as South Korea detected that North Korea had uncovered artillery muzzle covers and deployed troops to artillery positions in possible preparation for an attack. Yonhap cited no source for the information.

Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told reporters North Korea was believed to have acted in line with carrying out its threat. He declined to elaborate on the North's army movement as that was confidential military information.

He said South Korea had bolstered its military readiness following the North's threat and would "strongly" retaliate if attacked.

The activists said they floated balloons carrying about 120,000 leaflets critical of North Korea's young leader Kim Jong Un and his country's alleged human rights abuses. They said they wanted to let North Korean people know the true nature of their country.

"We could not delay our plans to send anti-North Korea leaflets because it is our love toward our northern brothers," the activists wrote in a statement posted on the website of Seoul-based Free North Korea Radio, one of civic organizations involved in the leafleting.

Lead activist Park Sang-hak had said the ban on entering the border area was tantamount to yielding to Pyongyang's threat.

"It's surrender. It's clearly surrender," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan police say man killed wife for wanting job

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A man in a western Afghan city has confessed to stabbing his wife to death to prevent her from taking a job outside the home, police said Monday. Mohammad Anwar, who was arrested in the provincial capital

for the murder, said he killed his wife during an argument over whether she should work at private company in the city, Herat province police spokesman Noor Khan Nekzad said. The woman's relatives disputed the account, saying her husband was a drug addict who killed his wife because she refused to give him money.

New Zealand, Philippines agree to strengthen ties

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The leaders of the Philippines and New Zealand have agreed to strengthen their economic and defense ties. Philippines President Benigno Aquino III met with New Zealand Prime Minister John Key

on Tuesday in Wellington as part of a visit to New Zealand and Australia. Aquino brought with him a large entourage of 70 in a symbolic show of friendship. After the meeting, the two countries signed agreements that would increase the number of defense training exercises, improve geothermal energy cooperation and launch a new working-holiday

exchange program for a small number of workers.

Taiwan nursing home fire kills 12 elderly patients

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwanese officials say a midnight fire at a nursing home has killed 12 elderly patients and injured 70 others. Hsinying Hospital

official Tsai Ming-shih says the 12 patients died of smoke inhalation early Tuesday as fire tore through the nursing home located on the second floor of the hospital. Tsai says the fire was put out in 40 minutes and rescuers quickly evacuated the patients. Seventy of them were later treated at nearby hospitals for burns or inhaling smoke.

World

7 experts convicted for not warning of quake risk

L'AQUILA, Italy (AP)—In a verdict that sent shock waves through the scientific community, an Italian court convicted seven experts of manslaughter on Monday for failing to adequately warn residents of the risk before an earthquake struck central Italy in 2009, killing more than 300 people.

The defendants, all prominent scientists or geological and disaster experts, were sentenced to six years in prison.

Earthquake experts worldwide decried the trial as ridiculous, contending there was no way of knowing that a flurry of tremors would lead to a deadly quake.

"It's a sad day for science," said seismologist Susan Hough, of the U.S. Geological Survey in Pasadena, Calif. "It's unsettling."

That fellow seismic experts in Italy were singled out in the case "hits you in the gut," she said.

In Italy, convictions aren't definitive until after at least one appeal, so it was unlikely any of the defendants would face jail immediately.

Italian officials and experts have been prosecuted for quake-triggered damage in the past, including a 2002 school collapse in southern Italy that killed 27 children and a teacher. But that case centered on allegations of shoddy construction in quake-prone areas.

Among those convicted Monday were some of Italy's best known and most internationally respected seismologists and geological experts, including Enzo Boschi, former head of the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology.

"I am dejected, desperate," Boschi said. "I thought I would have been acquitted. I still don't



In this April 6, 2009 file photo Alfredo Gianmaria is carried away by rescuers after a four-storey building collapsed following an earthquake in L'Aquila, central Italy

understand what I was convicted of."

The trial began in September 2011 in this Apennine town, whose devastated historic center is still largely deserted.

The defendants were accused of giving "inexact, incomplete and contradictory information" about whether small tremors felt by L'Aquila residents in the weeks and months before the April 6, 2009, quake should have been grounds for a warning.

The 6.3-magnitude temblor killed 308 people in and around

the medieval town and forced survivors to live in tent camps for months.

Many much smaller tremors had rattled the area in the previous months, causing frightened people to wonder if they should evacuate.

"I consider myself innocent before God and men," said another convicted defendant, Bernardo De Bernardinis, a former official of the national Civil Protection Agency.

Prosecutors had sought convictions and four-year sentences during the trial. They argued

that the L'Aquila disaster was tantamount to "monumental negligence," and cited the devastation wrought in 2005 when levees failed to protect New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.

Relatives of some who perished in the 2009 quake said justice had been done. Ilaria Carosi, sister of one of the victims, told Italian state TV that public officials must be held responsible "for taking their job lightly."

The world's largest multidisciplinary science society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, condemned the charges, verdict and sentencing as a com-

plete misunderstanding about the science behind earthquake probabilities.

There are swarms of seismic activity regularly in Italy and most do not end up causing dangerous earthquakes, said geologist Brooks Hanson, deputy editor of the organization's Science magazine. He said that if seismologists had to warn of a quake with every series of tremors, there would be too many false alarms and panic.

"With earthquakes we just don't know," Hanson said Monday. "We just don't know how a swarm will proceed."

Quake scientist Maria Beatrice Magnani, who followed the trial closely and knows

the defendants professionally, called the outcome "pretty shocking."

She disagreed with putting scientists on trial, and contended that the death toll would have been lower had buildings in the quake-prone area been better reinforced.

The verdict left Magnani and others in the field wondering about the way they articulate their work.

"We need to be extremely careful about what we say, and the information we provide has to be precise. We cannot allow ourselves to slip," said Magnani, an associate research professor at the University of Memphis.

Syria exposes Lebanon's thin veneer of stability

BEIRUT (AP)—Potentially the most unstable country in the Middle East, Lebanon for the most part has stayed on the sidelines of the Arab Spring, keeping up appearances as an oasis of relative modernity, commerce and good times.

But the spillover effects of the Syrian war are ripping off that thin veneer.

Beneath the surface lurk the same forces that devastated the country during its years of civil war, with simmering hatreds still dividing Muslims and Christians, Sunni and Shiites, and secular and fundamentalist groups. Outside forces are still arrayed, militias are still armed and the country seems forever on the verge of tearing itself apart.

"Of all Syria's neighbors, Lebanon is the weakest, the most political and ideologically polarized and split among sectarian lines," said Fawaz A. Gerges, head of the Middle East Center at the London School of Economics. "The fear is not if the Syrian conflict will spill over—but whether it has already reached

the streets of Beirut."

The assassination of Lebanon's intelligence chief in a car bomb Friday is threatening to upend a fragile political balance in Lebanon, a country plagued by decades of strife—much of it linked to political and military domination by Damascus.

The funeral for Brig. Gen. Wissam al-Hassan descended into chaos over the weekend as soldiers fired tear gas at protesters who tried to storm the government palace. The demonstrators were furious at a leadership they consider beholden to Syria, blaming al-Hassan's death on the regime in Damascus.

Al-Hassan, 47, was a powerful opponent of Syria's influence in Lebanon.

In the hours following the funeral, gunmen fought street battles in Beirut and the northern city of Tripoli. Sectarian clashes killed at least five people, and on Monday cracks of gunfire rang out in Beirut as soldiers and armored personnel carriers with heavy machine

guns took up position on major thoroughfares and dismantled roadblocks.

The outburst of violence appeared to be a sign of a nation hurtling toward civil war.

But this is Lebanon, where traditions of social freedoms, factional loyalties and fanaticism are held in a political balance that gives no group full power to force its agenda nationwide. When that balance is disrupted, such as by Friday's assassination, the result is another cycle of violence that the country appears powerless to escape.

It's too early to know if the al-Hassan killing will plunge the country back into war.

But his death does not appear to be having the kind of galvanizing effect seen in 2005, when former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was killed in a truck bombing along Beirut's waterfront. Hariri's assassination sparked thundering street protests in Lebanon that forced Damascus to withdraw its tens of thousands of troops from the country after three decades.

Clintons land in Haiti to showcase industrial park

CARACOL, Haiti (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton encouraged foreigners to invest in Haiti as she and her husband Bill led a star-studded delegation gathered Monday to inaugurate a new industrial park at the center of U.S. efforts to help the country rebuild after the 2010 earthquake.

Actors Sean Penn and Ben Stiller, fashion designer Donna Karan and British business magnate Richard Branson were among the luminaries at the opening of the new Caracol Industrial Park, which is projected to create thousands of jobs more than 100 miles from the quake-ravaged capital of Port-au-Prince.

Hillary Rodham Clinton told a roomful of investors gathered for a luncheon that she had made Haiti a priority when she became secretary of state.

"We had learned that sup-

porting long-term prosperity in Haiti meant more than providing aid," she said. "It required investments in infrastructure and the economy that would help the Haitian people achieve their own dreams."

"So we shifted our assistance to investments to address some of the biggest challenges facing this country: creating jobs and sustainable economic growth," she added.

Earlier Monday, thousands of Haitians lined the roadway to wave at her motorcade as it wound its way from the newly renovated airport in the seaside city of Cap-Haitien. Clinton and other U.S. officials, including Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democrat from Vermont, toured a housing development for industrial park workers supported by the U.S. Agency

for International Development.

The secretary of state noted there were three presidents gathered in one room to celebrate the opening: her husband, former U.S. President Bill Clinton, current Haitian President Michel Martelly and his predecessor, Rene Preval.

Bill Clinton, now a U.N. special envoy for Haiti, arrived in Caracol separately from his wife.

The Clintons and their allies hope that the \$300 million industrial facility will transform the northern part of this impoverished country by providing thousands of desperately needed jobs.

But some Haitians say the industrial park does little more than replicate failed efforts from the past and will benefit outsiders more than Haitians. They also worry it will harm some of the few pieces of undamaged environment that still exist in Haiti.

Beirut girl hurt by car bomb needed 300 stitches

BEIRUT (AP)—Jennifer Shedid had just arrived home from school and she was hungry. As she asked her older sister what she could eat, a massive explosion shook their entire block and turned the glass of their 4th floor apartment into flying knives that slashed 10-year-old Jennifer from head to toe.

Their father Richard was climbing the stairs to the apartment on his way back from buying bread for the family when the car bomb struck on Friday afternoon less than 20 meters (yards) away, shaking doors and shattering his home.

He grabbed his bleeding daughter from the arms of her older sister Jozianna and rushed her downstairs.

"As I carried her down the stairs, she was trembling and telling me: 'Please dad rescue

me,'" the father told The Associated Press on Monday.

A neighbor helped him carry Jennifer and a soldier then took the girl and whisked her to an ambulance that sped off to the hospital. An AP picture, published in newspapers around the world, showed the girl being carried out with deep head and face wounds and her sneakers soaked red with blood.

"As we were in the ambulance, she was better but losing lots of blood," said her father.

The blast, which hit the Shedids' narrow residential street in Beirut's predominantly Christian neighborhood of Achrafieh, targeted Brig. Gen. Wissam al-Hassan, a top intelligence official who was one of the most powerful opponents of Syria in Lebanon. He was killed

along with his bodyguard and a female civilian—a mother of three. It has sparked angry accusations from Syria's opponents in Lebanon that Damascus was behind the bombings.

Jennifer was one of the dozens wounded in the blast.

On Monday, she lay in a hospital with more than 300 stitches in her body, 90 of them in her face and head while and about 50 more on her hands. Her head was shaved and her face was swollen.

Smiling faintly with a monitor behind her showing her heart rate and blood pressure, Jennifer blew kisses to visiting reporters and called out "hi, hi."

Antoine Younan, the doctor leading the team treating Jennifer, showed reporters on Monday a picture of the girl when she arrived at the hospital.

Campus Life

National Red Ribbon Week contest now live at redribbon.org/contest

» **10 schools from across the US will each win \$1,000 grant for drug prevention**

» **10 families will each win an iPad for their home**

The National Family Partnership announces the national contest for its 27th annual Red Ribbon Week, which will run from Oct. 23 to 31.

This year, families can get involved by entering a contest to promote awareness in their neighborhoods and win a drug prevention grant for their

schools. The odds of winning are good because families can generate their own online votes from friends, colleagues, schoolmates and family members (and the entries with the most votes win).

To participate in the contest families and students will decorate the front of their homes with this year's message: "The Best Me Is Drug Free." Here's

ON THE NET

Watch this video for families to see how easy it is to enter: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=_8oR6zAGhHA

how students and their families can enter to win \$1,000 for their local K-12 school and a new iPad for their home:

■ Students bring the Red Ribbon Week message home by working alongside parents to decorate their front door, mailbox, fence, etc. with this year's theme "The Best Me Is Drug Free."

■ Take a photo with the family and their Red Ribbon Week decoration, then upload by Nov. 2 to www.redribbon.org/contest or www.facebook.com/RedRibbonWeek (must be parents or 18-plus to upload photos).

The voting begins! Ask family and friends to vote for your entry at www.redribbon.org/ vote on Nov. 2-16. Ten lucky winners from regions across the U.S. will win. Winners will be announced at events at their winning schools in December.

"Students will once again take Red Ribbon Week's message of prevention home to their neighborhoods with this national contest," said the NFP's volunteer president Peggy Sapp. "By decorating their homes together with this year's Red Ribbon theme, families carry the mes-

sage to their communities."

The nation's oldest and largest drug prevention campaign reaches more than 80 million people nationwide.

The DEA is co-sponsoring this year's national contest. "DEA is excited to partner with the National Family Partnership on this contest that empowers communities to come together to talk about the drug problem," said DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart. "Red Ribbon Week is also when we honor DEA Special Agent Enrique 'Kiki' Camarena, who made the ultimate sacrifice to

keep our communities safe."

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. In 1985 after the murder of a DEA agent, parents, youth and teachers in communities across the country began wearing red ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the destruction caused by drugs.

Visit www.redribbon.org/contest for contest information.

The NFP was established in 1980, and is a national leader in drug prevention, education and advocacy. (PR)



Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente poses with Mt. Carmel School student winners who correctly demonstrated their knowledge of the Northern Marianas tourism industry during MTEC's educational presentation on Oct. 10, 2012. MTEC

MTEC PRESENTATION

Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Frank Tudela addresses students of Mt. Carmel School during the educational presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Oct. 10, 2012. MTEC launched its annual round of school presentations this month and will hold the MTEC/MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Tourism Summit on Oct. 30, 2012, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. MTEC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MATHCOURT WINNERS

Agape Christian School students excel in the Mathcourt competition held Saturday at the William S. Reyes Elementary School. Bottom row from right is Zhixin Jiang, 3rd place, 7th Grade; Beibei Chen, 1st place, 7th Grade; Yuan Zhi Ou, 1st place, 7th Grade; and Neil Sean Delgado, 5th place, 6th Grade. Top row from right are Dat Tine Tran, 1st place, HS Advanced Algebra; Allen Guo, 3rd place, HS Algebra 1; Ming Zhe Li, 2nd place, HS Algebra 1; Xi Huang, 3rd place, HS Advanced Algebra; and Dat Thuan Tin, 1st place, 8th Grade. Not in picture is Math coach Frederic Guintu.



MANTA RAY DONATION

Karidat Social Services executive director Angie V. Guerrero, left, receives the food items donated by the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion in a ceremony held last Thursday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Life & Style

Taylor Swift gladly bears tabloid glare for success

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—On Taylor Swift's new album, "Red," there's a song where the 22-year-old superstar sings about a fictional one: a famous singer who spends years under the glare of the spotlight, then ditches her uncomfortable fame for a life of solitude.

It sounds like Swift might be mapping out her eventual exit plan on "The Lucky One," which depicts the troubling side of celebrity: tabloids, paparazzi, living life in a bubble. It's certainly a scenario the multimillion-selling Swift can relate to: She's become a fixture in the gossip pages, especially with her penchant for famous boyfriends, including her latest, Conor Kennedy of the storied political clan.

But if "Lucky One" has a plotline that Swift would eventually like to live out, for now, it's just a daydream: Swift has come to embrace her larger-than-life status—and all the headaches that come with it.

"There's a lot of trade-offs. There's the microscope that's always on you. The camera flashes, the fear that something you say will be taken the wrong way and you'll let your fans down. There's the fear that you'll be walking down the street and your skirt will blow up and you'll be in the news for three months," says Swift, sitting at her dining room table in her apartment in Nashville, dressed in a playful black shirt decorated with dogs and an appropriate red skirt. Her house decorated with a whimsical flair: flower-decorated walls, a small pond in the living room, kitschy mismatched chairs and hanging from a perch in her living room, dangling paper cutouts of her age, "22."

As she rattles off a few more of the negatives of being in the lime-light, she adds: "You're scared of a lot of things for a lot of the time, but the trade-off of being able to get on a big stage and sing your songs—it's worth it."

Swift is perhaps on the biggest stage of her young career with the release of "Red," out Monday. She's already scored her first No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart with the Max Martin/Shellback-produced "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together." The song is still in the top 10, and has company with her new song, "I Knew You Were Trouble," which takes the country star into further pop territory with its use of auto-tune and dance synths.

While "Red" still has plenty of tunes that cater to her country fan base, as Swift was crafting the album, she was determined to "step outside my comfort zone."

"On my fourth album, I wanted to do something that wasn't what I've done for the first three," she says.

Scott Borchetta, head of Big Machine Records, has worked with Swift since she was a teenager and watched her grow from a promising young country ingenue to one of music's best-selling artists. As she worked on



In this Oct. 17, 2012 photo, musician Taylor Swift poses for a portrait in Los Angeles, Calif. Swift's new album, "Red," was released Oct. 22, 2012.

the follow-up to 2010's "Speak Now"—which sold a million copies in its first week, netted her multiple awards and was the anchor for her sold-out world tour—he noticed she was exploring other sounds not usually heard on country radio. He encouraged her to seek out producers like Martin, best known for crafting hits for Britney Spears, Pink and Kelly Clarkson.

"If you're going to write a country song, run toward country. If you're going to write a pop song, write and produce it with the guys who are the best and biggest, if that's what it feels like," he said.

While she worked with previous collaborators like songwriter Liz Rose and producer Nathan Chapman, she also tapped singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol; both are featured in duets.

Jeff Bhasker, who's worked with everyone from Beyonce to Swift's one-time nemesis Kanye West, was also involved in the making of "Red." Swift emailed him directly after admiring fun.'s bombastic drum sound and soon afterward, they were recording.

"She came just by herself and brought her guitar to the studio and played me this song 'Holy Ground' on my couch, and sang it all the way through perfectly and I was just blown away at how stone cold she was," says Bhasker, who also worked on "The Lucky One."

"Her style of songwriting is very, very honest," he adds. "She's just a really old soul."

Heartbreak is again the muse for many of her songs. While she's seemingly in a dreamy relationship with Kennedy, grandson of the late Robert Kennedy, during the making of "Red" she had a well-publicized (but brief) romance with actor Jake Gyllenhaal that ended in heartbreak—according to those pesky tabloids.

"My mind frame during this recording process and the writing process was the ups and downs of a few really tumultuous relationships that had, you know, various amounts of damage and impact and things that were really tough for me to get through," Swift explains. "And that's typically when I turn to songwriting, when I don't quite understand how to say what I feel because it's all so much."

While she admits that her songs are autobiographical, she sticks to her rule of not disclosing whom they are about: "I just like that I like the way my personal life sounds in songs so much better than I do in quotes and interviews." She declines to talk about her current romance, and even though John Mayer outed himself as the subject of 2010's scathing "Dear John," she refuses to confirm it, calling him "presumptuous."

Still, that hasn't stopped plenty of people from writing about the supposed intimate details of her life. Dating a Kennedy who's four years her junior (and happens to be a senior in high school) has only added to media swirl.

Swift isn't oblivious to the attention, but she tries her best to protect herself from it. She refuses to read articles about herself or combat what's being said about her, good or bad.

"Everybody's got their way of dealing with it. And for me, sometimes it's surrounding myself with my friends and venting, sometimes it's staying up at the piano until four o'clock in the morning, sometimes it's watching TV and forgetting about all of it, sometimes it's calling my mother up and crying," she admits. "Sometimes you have a really bad day."

She's developed empathy toward other celebrities: "I understand why people sometimes get so caught up with this because it's a lot of pressure. And when you see someone going through a scandal in the news, I don't sit there and see it as entertainment anymore."

But she knows this is what she bargained for—and she's still happy the way it all turned out.

"Sometimes my mom and I just sit there and think, 'Remember when nobody believed this could happen for us, and we didn't even believe it?'" she says. "It's crazy to look back at that and think, 'How did that ever work?' How did it happen?" I mean, we actually got further than we actually ever imagined. ... I wouldn't change anything."

Lohan won't face charges in alleged NYC car scrape

NEW YORK (AP)—Lindsay Lohan won't face criminal charges after being accused of clipping a man with her car outside a nightclub, one of a string of troubles the actress has encountered behind the wheel and elsewhere in recent months.

The "Mean Girls" and "Freaky Friday" star had been due to make her first court appearance in the case Tuesday, but the Manhattan district attorney's office said Monday there is now no court date scheduled at any point.

Prosecutors wouldn't elaborate on their decision not to move forward on the allegations about the Sept. 21 episode, which was captured on surveillance video. Lohan's spokesman had called the claims false.

"As we said from the beginning, this is a big nothing," the spokesman, Steve Honig, said Monday.

Lohan, 26, was arrested on a charge of leaving an accident scene after restaurant worker Jose Rodriguez said her Porsche hit him and hurt his knee as she turned from a Manhattan street into an alley by the Dream Hotel. Police said no alcohol was involved. Rodriguez, 34, was walking by after leaving his job at another hotel nearby.

Lohan was released with an appearance ticket. Rodriguez called emergency services and was taken to a hospital.

Police released grainy surveillance footage that shows Lohan's car turning as Rodriguez passed in front of it. Blurring to conceal witnesses' faces partially obscures the scene, and it's not clear exactly what happens as he is in front of the car. The video does show him

staying on his feet and walking after the car as it continues into the alley.

The encounter came with Lohan on informal probation for taking a necklace last year without permission from a jewelry store in Venice, California; she spent 35 days on house arrest in that case. The Los Angeles city attorney's office said Monday the Manhattan car episode wouldn't affect Lohan's probation.



Lohan

The actress' latest project, "Liz & Dick," is set to premiere on Lifetime on Nov. 25. She plays Elizabeth Taylor in the biopic, which chronicles the roller coaster romance of Taylor and Richard Burton.

Lohan—whose earlier problems with cocaine, alcohol and driving landed her in a Los Angeles-area jail for about two weeks in 2010—has had some

other brushes with the law recently. In May, she was cleared of allegations that she hit a Hollywood nightclub manager with her car. The next month, she and her assistant were in a California crash that sent both to a hospital; neither was seriously hurt.

About a week after the episode near the Dream Hotel, Lohan told authorities a man grabbed her in a New York hotel room in an argument over cellphone photos. The man was initially arrested, but the arrest was voided hours later when the charge could not be substantiated, law enforcement officials said.

Earlier this month, police were called to Lohan's childhood home in the New York suburbs after getting a report that she and her mother were fighting. Investigators found nothing criminal happened, Nassau County police said.

Exec says he never heard man was Spears' manager

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A top recording executive testified Monday that he was Britney Spears' "lifeline" during the darkest days of the pop singer's well-documented meltdown and never heard that she had a new manager named Sam Lutfi.

Barry Weiss, who headed Jive Records, the label on which Spears recorded, said his only contact from Lutfi in 2007-08 was when Weiss asked him for assurance that Spears would be on set to record a music video for her "Blackout" album.

"Britney was pretty erratic at the time," Weiss testified during trial in a defamation lawsuit brought by Lutfi against Spears' parents.

Lutfi claims he was Spears' personal manager and deserves millions as his share of her income during that period.

The defamation lawsuit stems from the way Lutfi is depicted in a book written by Spears' mother that detailed the star's meltdown.

The trial took an early recess Monday and will resume Tuesday.

Conservators of Spears' estate, including her father, Jamie, who was in court, contend that Lutfi was never her manager but was simply a user who inserted himself into Spears' life and preyed on her vulnerabilities.

Weiss told of working closely with her former personal manager, Larry Rudolph, but said he was never told Lutfi had assumed the role.

"Sam Lutfi never introduced himself or came in for a meeting. He never discussed records or a record contract," Weiss said.

"He helped us get a video made," Weiss acknowledged. "He was trying to keep Britney on the set."

But in the end, Weiss said he saw Lutfi's role as a "gofer ... like a personal assistant."

Weiss said the singer would discuss with him the album's packaging, choice of a single record and creative matters normally discussed with a manager.

"There was no manager involved," Weiss said. "She was estranged from her family. I felt I was a lifeline for her. She was texting me constantly from her cellphone."

Weiss said that he had known Spears since she was 16 when he signed her for a contract with Jive Records.

"She's a superstar, a household name in every country in the world," Weiss said.

On cross-examination by Lutfi's attorney, Weiss said Spears' current contract requires one more album. Weiss said he has been in talks to persuade Spears to join him at his new label.

"It would be nice to be back together, if that happened," he said.



Spears

Nick Offerman talks new movie, love for wife

Actor Nick Offerman from "Parks & Recreation" poses for a portrait on Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012 in New York.

AP

By ALICIA RANCILIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—If you like Ron Swanson on NBC's "Parks and Recreation," then you'll like Nick Offerman, the actor who plays him.

Swanson is the director of the parks department in the Indiana town of Pawnee where "Parks and Recreation" is set.

Offerman has the same deadpan delivery as his character, and he's a guy's guy, who loves carpentry. He has a woodshop in Los Angeles.

One way Offerman differs from his character: he's creative. Besides NBC's "Parks and Recreation," the 42-year-old actor has a live musical-comedy review, "American Ham," and a new independent film, "Smashed," starring Aaron Paul and Mary Elizabeth Winstead. The film tells the story of a young alcoholic couple whose dynamic changes when one decides to become sober. Offerman's wife, Megan Mullally ("Will and Grace"), has a supporting role in the movie.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Offerman talked about working with his wife, his role on "Parks and Recreation" and co-star Amy Poehler, and why he likes independent films.

AP: So you share a love of meat with your "Parks and Recreation" character?

Offerman: I grew up in a part of the country where my dad every morning would get up and make us bacon and eggs. That was the fuel of life so long before I learned about cholesterol or my circulatory system in any way; I was already hooked on all pork and beef products.

AP: Some couples don't like to work together. How is it OK for you and your wife, Megan Mullally?

Offerman: I think the accepted rule of thumb is that you don't bring your marriage to the workplace, but we feel very lucky that for some reason I think it's important that we both are successful. If one of us wasn't succeeding, I think that would make a difference in the paradigm, but we both are getting to exercise our own weird muscles, and we're able to leave our egos out of it. We love working as a team and I love to see her succeed and I'm very aware of how that helps me in our household. I love to plug Megan because you know she deserves a lot of kudos, but also because it's all in the family. She's such a comedy hero to me.

AP: What makes Megan so great comically is she just goes for it.

Offerman: We met during a play in Los Angeles and I think that was our initial attraction to one another. ... That's where the best comedy lies, is making a total fool of yourself.

AP: Which of your cast mates on "Parks and Recreation" are so funny it's hard to do scenes with them?

Offerman: It's so hard not to laugh at Amy. She's just so wickedly funny and I've had to develop this psychological trick where I pretend she's my sister. I have a couple sisters and there are reasons when you hate your sisters' guts ... where like in high school everyone loves one of them for some reason so you hate them because of their popularity. I try to get into this mind-set where she's being so funny and I think to myself, "Oh, you're so funny. Everyone loves you so much." And I pretend she's my sister. It allows her humor to not affect me for a moment. But even that she batters through (laughs).

AP: What makes you enjoy independent film?

Offerman: I grew up in a wonderful, large farm family in Illinois where we all pitch in to get the work done and pitch in to have a party or a meal and my whole life I've enjoyed collaborating with a group. I come from Chicago theater where we were literally never paid a cent through all those years but we were paid so richly in experience and fellowship and craft. Independent film reminds me of where the crew and budget is small enough that you can feel all of you making this piece of art together.

Krall reimagines vintage songs in new CD

By CHARLES J. GANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Diana Krall says she felt reinvigorated making her new CD "Glad Rag Doll," which gave her a chance to escape the comfort zone of Great American Songbook standards on which the singer-pianist has built her reputation.

"It's always exciting to do something where you surprise yourself and it's like, 'Wow, I didn't expect that,'" said Krall. "I felt it was time for me to do something which is about what I hear and I like, not a tribute to Nat Cole."

On the CD, Krall reimagines mostly vintage songs from the 1920s and '30s in an eclectic style that goes way beyond her jazz roots. The album was produced by retro Americana specialist T Bone Burnett, best known for the Grammy-winning Robert Plant-Alison Krauss CD "Raising Sand" and "O Brother Where Art Thou" soundtrack. Burnett surrounded her with a new supporting cast of musicians, including the versatile guitarist Marc Ribot, who plays an intimate acoustic duet with Krall on the title track and throws in references to Miles Davis' electric "Tribute to Jack Johnson" on "Lonely Avenue," a 1956 hit for Ray Charles.

The essence of the album is captured in the slightly risque cover portrait. The 47-year-old mother of nearly 6-year-old twin boys poses in vintage black lingerie and stockings selected by Oscar-winning costume designer Colleen Atwood, yet her blond hair and makeup are in a contemporary style. Krall says she was going for an updated version of Albert Cheney Johnston's photographs of Ziegfeld Follies showgirls.

Krall insists the new album doesn't represent a change of direction but rather a change of pace. This week, she begins touring in Europe with a new program that will include songs from "Glad Rag Doll" as well as standards from her repertoire such as "Flim Flam Sauce" and "Boulevard of Broken Dreams."

Though many of the songs on "Glad Rag Doll" are obscure, they resonate with Krall in a more personal way than the more familiar tunes by the Gershwins or Irving Berlin in her repertoire, bringing back fond memories of her childhood in Nanaimo, British Columbia.

"My dad collected 78 rpm records and old sheet music, and this is the music that I heard and discovered that I had a love for," said Krall. "It's taken me 40 years to do this, but it's always been something I wanted to do."

Krall recalls gathering around the piano at her coal miner grandfather's house, and the stories of her great aunt who left Vancouver to sing in vaudeville shows in New York in the 1920s.

When she became more serious about music, Krall found herself drawn to long-forgotten performers from that era like the sweetly seductive singer Annette Hanshaw. Four tunes on Krall's CD—including the opener "We Just Couldn't Say Goodbye" and "Just Like a Butterfly That's Caught in the Rain"—were recorded by Hanshaw.

"I think songs like 'Just Like a Butterfly' are relevant today. The story is the same—it's still about loneliness and love—and people still are drawn to that. ... The story doesn't change because it's 2012," said Krall, interviewed at an ABC TV studio after performing the title track on "Live With Kelly and Michael,"



This CD cover image released by Verve shows the latest release by Diana Krall, "Glad Rag Doll."

using the same vintage 1890s upright Steinway piano she used to record most of the CD.

Krall was reluctant to approach Burnett, a close family friend who had produced several albums for her husband Elvis Costello. But he signed on after she sent him a demo solo CD with about 35 songs culled from her father's collection of 78s. Krall says Burnett had a "no-holds-barred"

approach with nothing pre-arranged.

"It was the most exciting, creative time for me in a very long time because it was spontaneous and by the seat of our pants," Krall said.

Burnett suggested she include the 1961 Betty James rockabilly tune "I'm a Little Mixed Up." Krall said playing rock is nothing new for her, although "it's new for me on a recording."

Her supporting cast includes Howard Coward, a pseudonym for Costello. Krall says her husband originally was going to do a few ukelele parts, but ended up playing mandola and tenor guitar as well as adding backup vocals, most notably on the closing "When the Curtain Comes Down."

"We had such a good time in the studio," said Krall, who met Costello 10 years ago and now lives with him in Greenwich Village. "He has a very deep understanding of what I do and there's just such incredible support. ... It's pretty cool to be so in love with somebody and then have on top of it a bunch of musical things in common."

Ellen DeGeneres receives top humor prize in DC

By **BRETT ZONGKER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Some of the nation's top comedians hailed Ellen DeGeneres as a trailblazer Monday night as she received the highest U.S. humor prize.

The Kennedy Center is awarding DeGeneres the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. The show will be broadcast Oct. 30 on Public Broadcasting Service stations.

"Thanks to everyone at PBS. I am so happy to be part of your farewell season," DeGeneres joked in accepting the prize and taking a jab at Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's plans to stop funding public broadcasting.

On the red carpet before the show, DeGeneres said she doesn't see herself as political with her comedy, even though she's been a trailblazer.

"I just want to make people happy and make people laugh," she said.

DeGeneres, 54, began her career as a comedy club emcee in her native New Orleans. After a performance on Johnny Carson's show in 1986, he invited her over to his desk to chat. She was the first female comedian to receive that invitation from Carson.

Turning to acting, DeGeneres landed comedy series on Fox and ABC, eventually starring in "Ellen" from 1994 to 1998. She broke new ground and a taboo in 1997 when she came out publicly as a lesbian and her TV persona then became the first lead character on prime-time TV to reveal she was gay. A record 46 million viewers watched the episode.

Coming out on TV 15 years ago feels like another life, she



AP
Entertainer Ellen DeGeneres, left, with her wife Portia de Rossi, pose for photographers on the red carpet before DeGeneres receives the 15th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the Kennedy Center, Monday, Oct. 22, 2012, in Washington.

said Monday night before the show.

"I did it because it was the right thing for me to do," DeGeneres said. "It was the right thing for me to do to not live with shame. I happened to help a lot of people, and it happened to create a ruckus."

Jimmy Kimmel called it a milestone.

"For a lot of people, Ellen is their only homosexual friend," he said. "She's there in their living room every single day."

On stage, he said DeGeneres was his inspiration.

"Because of Ellen, in 1998, I mustered the strength to come out of the closet—despite the fact that I'm not gay," he joked.

"Thanks to Ellen, vests aren't just for magicians anymore."

Sean Hayes said DeGeneres made his former gay-themed show, "Will and Grace," possible. He said her "fearlessness" was her biggest contribution and that she changed America.

"We didn't have a voice, until there was you," he said before breaking into a rendition of the tune "Till There Was You."

"Glee" star Jane Lynch said DeGeneres "took one for the team."

"She's the one who went in there with a machete" and cleared the way for other shows with gay characters such as "Glee," Lynch said. "Look where she is today."

Kristin Chenoweth said DeGeneres has always remained kind.

"She's not a mean girl comic," she said.

When DeGeneres first heard she was receiving the same honor that Bill Cosby, Tina Fey and Will Ferrell won in recent years, she joked, "Why didn't I get this sooner?"

After DeGeneres came out on TV in 1997, her comedy show began to tank and was canceled a year later. The feeling of rejection was enough to send DeGeneres into a depression. Still, "Ellen" paved the way for future shows to feature gay characters, from "Will and Grace" to "Modern Family."

Testimony begins in Britney Spears defamation case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Testimony is set to begin in a defamation suit by Britney Spears' ex-manager against her parents.

Lawyers for Sam Lutfi declined to say whether he would be the first witness at Monday's

trial in Los Angeles.

But one thing certain was that Spears will not testify. She remains under a court-ordered conservatorship and a judge told her not to participate.

Her father, Jamie, who is her

conservator, has been in court with his wife, Lynne, whose book on her daughter's darkest days led to the defamation suit by Lutfi.

He was portrayed by lawyers for the family as a destructive

force in Britney's life. His lawyers maintain he was just trying to help Britney and manage her career.

Lutfi is seeking millions of dollars from Spears and her family.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Barry Manilow to play Broadway in January

NEW YORK (AP)—Barry Manilow is headed to Broadway. The Grammy Award-winning singer of such songs as "Mandy," "I Write the Songs" and "Looks Like We Made It," will start a 17-performance stand on Jan. 18 at the St. James Theatre. Manilow has appeared on a Broadway stage before, in 1976 and 1989. His new show, called "Manilow on Broadway," has tickets ranging from \$50 to \$350.

E.T. immortalized in wax around the world

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"E.T.—the Extra-Terrestrial" recently marked a 30th anniversary, and now it's making appearances around the world. Madame Tussauds is unveiling wax likenesses of the otherworldly star of Steven Spielberg's 1982 film at six of its international locations Monday. The wax figures were crafted at Merlin Studios

in London and will be on view at Madame Tussauds museums in Los Angeles, Sydney, Tokyo, London, Berlin and Amsterdam. The exhibit features the iconic scene from the film where a blanket-wrapped E.T. rides in the makeshift basket of little Elliot's bicycle.

Tony Scott died from blunt force in LA bridge jump

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An autopsy report on the death of "Top Gun" director Tony Scott lists his death as a suicide and says the cause was multiple blunt force injuries suffered from jumping off a bridge into Los Angeles Harbor. The report released Monday by the Los Angeles County coroner says Scott also drowned, and had in his system therapeutic levels of the anti-depressant Remeron and the sleep aid Lunesta. No surprises appeared in the autopsy results on Scott, who leapt from the Vincent Thomas Bridge on August 19 and whose death was presumed a probable suicide from the outset. The coroner's office said previously that Scott left

notes behind in his car including messages to friends and loved ones, but none gave a reason why he would kill himself.

Taiwan sculptor makes 2-meter-tall crystal Buddha

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A Taiwanese sculptor has made a 2-meter- (6.6 foot-) tall crystal glass statue of "Buddha of a Thousand Hands" she says was inspired by an 800-year-old painting from China's Yuan dynasty. Loretta Yang says the statue is twice as tall as one she made in 2006 that was recognized then as the world's tallest crystal glass Buddha statue. She says her new statue has a few tiny cracks and is "less than perfect" but it fulfills her wish to save in crystal the fading Buddha images painted on the famous Dunhuang cave walls in western China. Yang is artistic director and co-founder of glassmaker Liuli Gongfang. She is Buddhist and has created Buddha statues and other glass works in traditional and modern styles. They are on display in Taipei.

Teenage girl grieves alone after her secret miscarriage

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm 15. I have dated since I was 12 but never told my parents and sort of went out of my way to hide it from them. I had sex when I was 13, but was always careful about using birth control. I'm on the pill and always use condoms.

I got pregnant anyway, five months ago. I always had irregular periods so I didn't realize it until two months ago. The doctor told me I was having a girl. I was scared out of my mind, but I was planning to tell the father and my parents. Then early last month I got a terrible pain. I went to the clinic and had a miscarriage.

It will be a long time before I'm completely ready to deal with this, but I don't know how to move on. I only told a couple of people, and none of them can ever know how I'm feeling. I can't tell my parents, and I have no idea how to tell the father. Please help me.

LOST AND ALONE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR LOST AND ALONE: Please accept my sympathy. A miscarriage can cause a mix of emotions, among which are disappointment, despair, shock, guilt, grief—and relief. All are NORMAL. I urge you to talk to a trusted adult who can listen and support you, because going through all of this alone is doubly hard.

Remember that grief is a natural response to a miscarriage. Don't make light of it or deny the feelings. The length of time it takes to process them is different for everyone, but you should feel better as time passes. If that doesn't happen, talk with your health care provider because there may be additional ways to support you and help you feel better.

If you decide to tell the father, understand that he may need to grieve, too. He may not be able to express his emotions the same way you do. But communicating your feelings and supporting each other may help both of you to cope.

Because the birth control you were using didn't prevent your pregnancy, you should ask a health care provider for advice about avoiding another unplanned pregnancy in the future. A staff member at your local Planned Parenthood health center or other clinic, or your own physician, can discuss all of your options and help you get the birth control you need.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm the mother of two adult daughters. Their father and I were divorced when they were 6 and 10. He was an attentive father, and I encouraged and nurtured their relationship with him and always told them how much he loved them.

Five years after our divorce, he remarried. His new wife didn't care for the girls and made no secret of it. Our youngest daughter gave birth to our only grandchild. When the child was 4, my daughters were told by their father that they were no longer welcome in his home. They then revealed to me that during the 30 years since the divorce, their dad had never had a good thing to say about me and told them many lies. He died nine months ago, without patching up the problems between them.

Now my daughters want to be close to his wife! Please help me understand. I have strong emotions about this, especially concerning the grandchild.

MISERABLE IN MISSOURI

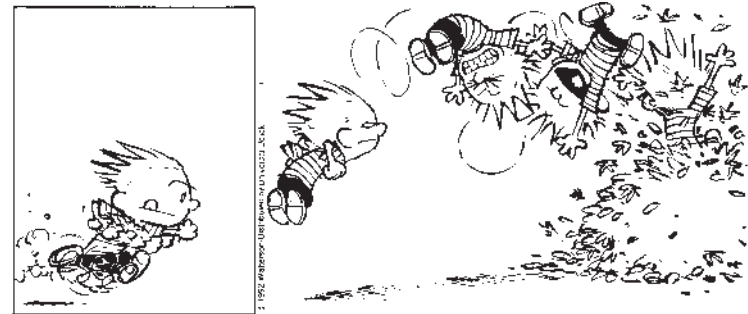
DEAR MISERABLE: It may not be rational, but it's possible that your daughters want a relationship with their father's wife because they perceive it as the one last link to their father, however weak a link that may be.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

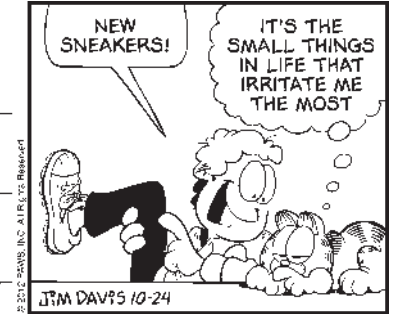
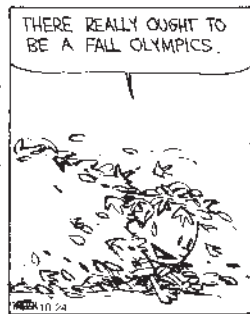
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

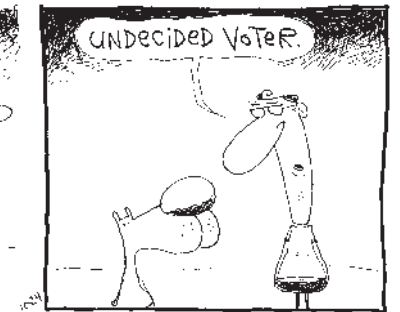
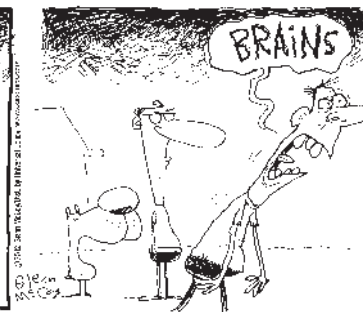
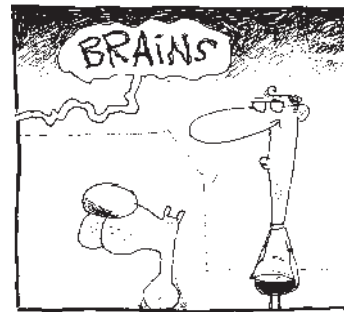


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stomach muscles (Abbr.)

4 Graceful sprite

8 Wise one

12 Promise

13 Surround-ed by

14 From the beginning

15 Mound stat

16 Make more acceptable

18 Picture puzzle

20 Thee

21 Sharp turns

24 Horse's call

28 Drool

32 Unrivaled

33 Hearty brew

34 Beethoven's "Für —"

36 Pitch

37 Campus mil. org.

39 Part

41 Man of morals?

43 Mediocre

DOWN

1 State with certainty

2 Use a drill

3 Use a mop

4 Lethargic

5 Ostrich's cousin

6 Cage component

7 Without anything

8 Justice Alito

9 Literary collection

10 Obtain

11 Ram's mate

17 Charged bit

19 Sub-machine gun

22 Guys' dates

23 Pigs' digs

25 Tittle

26 Summer-time pest

27 Present

28 Poet

29 Teasdale

30 "— Make a Deal"

31 Hockey legend

32 Phil, to fans

35 Oriental

38 Morning stimulant

40 Kanga's kid

42 Expert

45 On the rocks

47 Grand opening day?

48 Midwest state

49 45-Down, perhaps

50 Knightly address

51 Mex. neighbor

52 Aviate

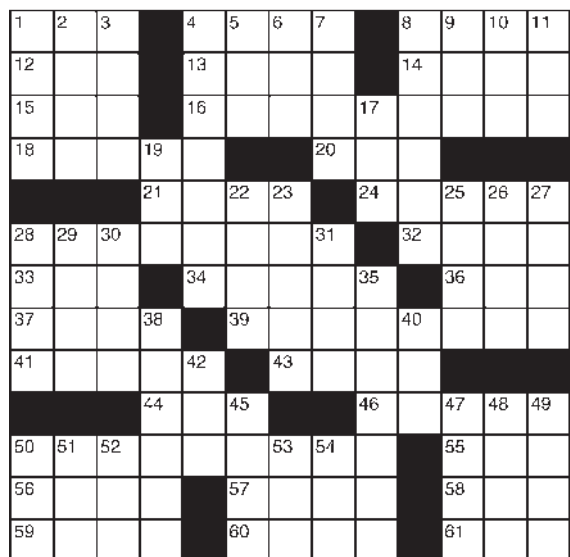
53 "Hail!"

54 Alternative to 38-Down

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	E	L	P	P	O	E	M	G	A	D
A	R	E	A	O	G	R	E	N	I	O
G	R	A	N	D	S	L	A	M	A	N
F	R	E	E	P	I	N	T	O		
A	N	G	R	Y	S	H	A	D		
R	O	R	Y	P	O	P	I	N	J	A
A	V	A	T	U	N	A	S	U	S	A
L	A	N	C	E	L	O	I	G	H	I
D	E	A	L	K	A	Y	A	K		
U	P	P	E	R	H	E	I	R		
S	I	R	G	R	A	N	D	T	O	U
S	K	I	A	U	I	D	F	I	M	O
R	E	X	S	E	E	S	R	E	A	D

Yesterday's answer 10-24



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kyla Ross, 16; Shenae Grimes, 23; B.D. Wong, 52; Kevin Kline, 65.

Happy Birthday: You must take action and make things happen if you want to readjust your life to suit your needs. A change in the way you do things or present what you have to offer will lead to a better lifestyle and greater opportunities. Love and romance are highlighted. Your numbers are 7, 12, 19, 27, 35, 43, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A sudden change in your financial situation looks positive. Check over investments and contracts carefully, and don't be afraid to revise small details that favor you. Attending a celebration will result in an interesting conversation. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Enjoy pastimes that let you use your skills and interact with people who share your concerns. A chance to move ahead professionally or to find a position that suits your lifestyle will develop through a conversation with an influential individual. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't make physical changes based on what someone else suggests. Get the lowdown on procedures before moving forward. Deception is apparent and will lead to an unsavory situation if you are not upfront about what you want and what you have to offer. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Rework an old plan or pick up new skills and you will be able to raise your earning potential. Creative collaboration will bring good re-

sults. Your intuition will lead you down the right path. Socializing will be rewarding. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't make a promise you cannot keep. Additional responsibilities will cost you mentally, physically and emotionally. Overspending to keep the peace will lead to stress and worry regarding your future. Look for alternative ways to cut corners. Do the work yourself. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Talks will lead to solutions. Your dedication and hard work will inspire others to help. Steer clear of those looking for handouts or excess in any way. A change at home can be good if it stifles someone's poor habits. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Mixing the old with the new will result in an interesting payoff. You'll attract someone from your past if you attend a reunion or visit places you used to frequent years ago. An emotional issue regarding money can be resolved. *****

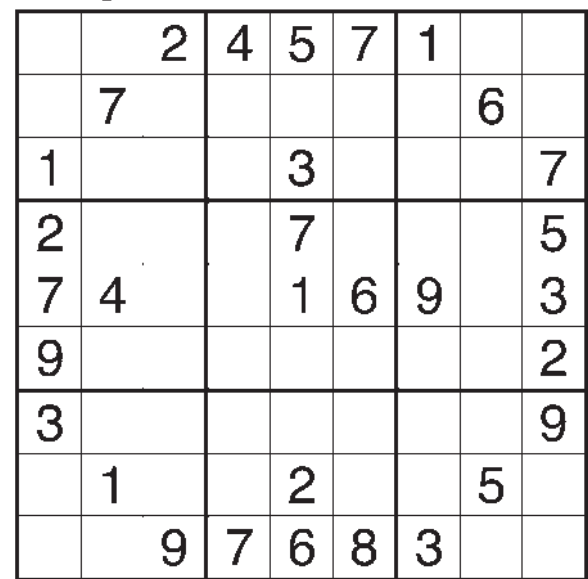
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Share your talent, skills and knowledge with others. You will attract attention and interest in what you have to offer. Romance is in the stars, and planning a late-night celebration will ensure that you enhance your love life. Enjoy the moment. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll upset someone if you neglect your duties or you don't show appreciation. A force play at home may appear detrimental at first, but in the end, it will help you move forward and follow a path better suited to your needs. **

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



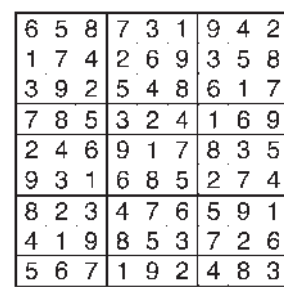
Difficulty Level ★★

10/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pull in favors. Suggest different ways to use your skills more effectively and you will advance professionally. A financial gain is heading in your direction. A commitment made to someone you have something to share with will bring high returns. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't question what everyone else is doing. Take care of business and do what's expected of you without complaint. Putting up a fuss will make you look bad and could cost you financially. Stick close to home and honor your word. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Arguing will be a waste of time. Do everything in your power to develop your interests and negotiate deals that promise a brighter future. Travel or expanding an interest you have will also enhance your personal life and important relationships. ***



Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, intuitive, a helper, a giver and a dedicated lobbyist.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'CSI: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION' (TV Series) Solution: 5 letters



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Analyze, Archie, Berman, Brass, Brody, Case, Catherine, Chase, City, Coroner, Crime, David, Detectives, Drama, Eads, Eric Szmanda, Evidence, Expert, Extra, Fear, Fox, George, Grave, Greg, Guilfoyle, Hall, James, Jim, Jorja, Justice, Langham, Liz, Locals, Love, Nick, Officer, Paul, Sanders, Sara, Scene, Sets, Shue, Sidle, Stokes, Team, Ted Danson, Test, X-rays

Yesterday's Answer: McHale's
The New Treasury is a collection of 1000 words and phrases from 1800 to 1900. It is a great resource for writers and students. It is available in paperback for \$14.95 and in hardcover for \$24.95. It is also available in e-book format for \$9.99. It is a great resource for writers and students. It is available in paperback for \$14.95 and in hardcover for \$24.95. It is also available in e-book format for \$9.99.

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Interested individuals are requested to submit their applications to the Human Resources Office at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, November 2, 2012.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-033

Opening Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012
Closing Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Senior Engineering Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Chief Engineer for the Water and Wastewater Division or his/her designee. Uses advanced technical computer applications to support engineering functions of the Division. Compiles As-Built drawings and expertly incorporates the data into existing composite system drawings. Performs field duties to include: collecting and gathering data; determining assembly requirements; preparing data for drawings; clearing underground facilities; providing storm damage assessments; conducting field inventories; conducting testing; conducting seaverance verifications by locating and verifying boundaries; conducting verifications on materials; and, conducting land title research. Prepares drawings, plans, as-builts and land acquisition documents; performs engineering calculations. Receives requests for drawings and independently creates needed drawings and renderings required by engineers for design and construction contracts. Prepares daily assignments to meet schedules and requests. Prepares and submits a variety of reports and documents to include securing permits. Prepares staking sheets to determine the cost of the required work as stated in the application. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION:

- Main Office at Joeten Dandan; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Sadog Tasi Offices of Water and Wastewater; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Fieldwork on Saipan and temporary projects on Tinian and Rota also possible, but the primary place of work will be at the CUC main office, which is currently located at the Joeten Dandan building.

SALARY: \$17,800.46 to \$28,191.50 per annum; un-graded, un-classified.

POSITIONS: Two (2).

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations; otherwise, not contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associate Degree in Construction Management or Engineering Technology, or a related field and three years of senior engineering technician experience. Knowledge of: Public rights of way; CADD programs; water and wastewater infrastructure and projects; Global Positioning Systems; National Electric Code; Mathematics; Basic engineering concepts. Skill in: Drafting; Preparing engineering drawings using CADD; Using GIS; Preparing charts and graphs; Performing mathematical calculations; Performing basic engineering calculations; Solving problems; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a U.S. or CNMI driver's license. Pre-employment drug testing required. Applicants may be tested.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Responsibilities:

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Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Hotel Management, Hospitality, Business Studies or its equivalent
- Minimum 10 years working experience with a proven track record in the hospitality industry
- Strong leadership and interpersonal skills
- Strong people management skills
- Trustworthy, reliable, outstanding work ethic, fast learner, work effectively under deadlines and pressure
- Ability to forge strong business and commercial relationships
- Manage existing business and implement exciting growth strategies as well as build new and exciting products and services
- Read and speak Korean and some Japanese language preferable


Salary:

- Pay and benefits commensurate with qualifications, experience and performance

Interested applicants may send Resume to: hr@mrisaipan.com
No phone calls please.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-032

Opening Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012
Closing Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2012

ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Designs, executes, coordinates, and oversees assigned projects to ensure adherence with applicable specifications and standards. Assists the public with a variety of inquiries and requests; provides technical information on projects. Maintains project files; prepares related correspondence. Prepares design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Drafts a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assists with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment/work analysis. Performs research. Performs construction management for assigned projects. May perform engineer duties for other divisions of CUC. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Water and Wastewater Divisions, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.**

SALARY: \$37,344.71 to \$55,315.50 per year; un-graded, un-classified.

POSITIONS: One (1).

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations; otherwise, not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering and five (5) years of directly related experience in water and wastewater utility design, construction, and operations. Bachelor's degree in Architecture or Mechanical Engineering may be substituted for Civil or Environmental Engineering if five (5) years directly related experience in water and wastewater engineering, project management, and construction management can be proven. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. or CNMI driver's license. Pre-employment drug testing required.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
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Giants on to World Series with 9-0 win over Cards



SAN FRANCISCO
(AP)—In a

postseason full of twists and turns, the San Francisco Giants are headed back to the World Series after a remarkable comeback against the defending champs.

Hunter Pence got the Giants going with a weird double, Matt Cain pitched his second clincher of October and San Francisco closed out Game 7 of the NL championship series in a driving rainstorm, routing the St. Louis Cardinals 9-0 on Monday night.

San Francisco won its record-tying sixth elimination game of the postseason, completing a lopsided rally from a 3-1 deficit.

to the World Series, this is unbelievable,” series MVP Marco Scutaro said.

The Giants, who won it all in 2010, will host reigning AL MVP and Cy Young winner Justin Verlander, Triple Crown slugger Miguel Cabrera and the Detroit Tigers in Game 1 on Wednesday night.

Verlander is set to pitch Wednesday’s opener at AT&T Park. Gianst manager Bruce Bochy insisted before Monday’s game he had not planned any further in advance.

Scutaro produced his sixth multihit game of the series and matched an LCS record with 14 hits and Pablo Sandoval drove in a run for his fifth straight game.

“These guys never quit,” Bochy said. “They just kept believing and they got it done.”

After falling behind 3-1 in the series at Busch Stadium, the Giants outscored the wild-card Cardinals 20-1 over the final three games behind stellar starting pitching from Barry Zito, Ryan Vogelsong and Cain.

They also benefited from some strange bounces.

On Pence’s double that highlighted a five-run third, his bat broke at the label on impact, then the broken barrel hit the ball twice more. That put a rolling, slicing spin on the ball and caused it to change directions—leaving shortstop Pete Kozma little chance to make the play. Kozma broke to his right, figuring that’s where the ball would go, but it instead curved to left-center.

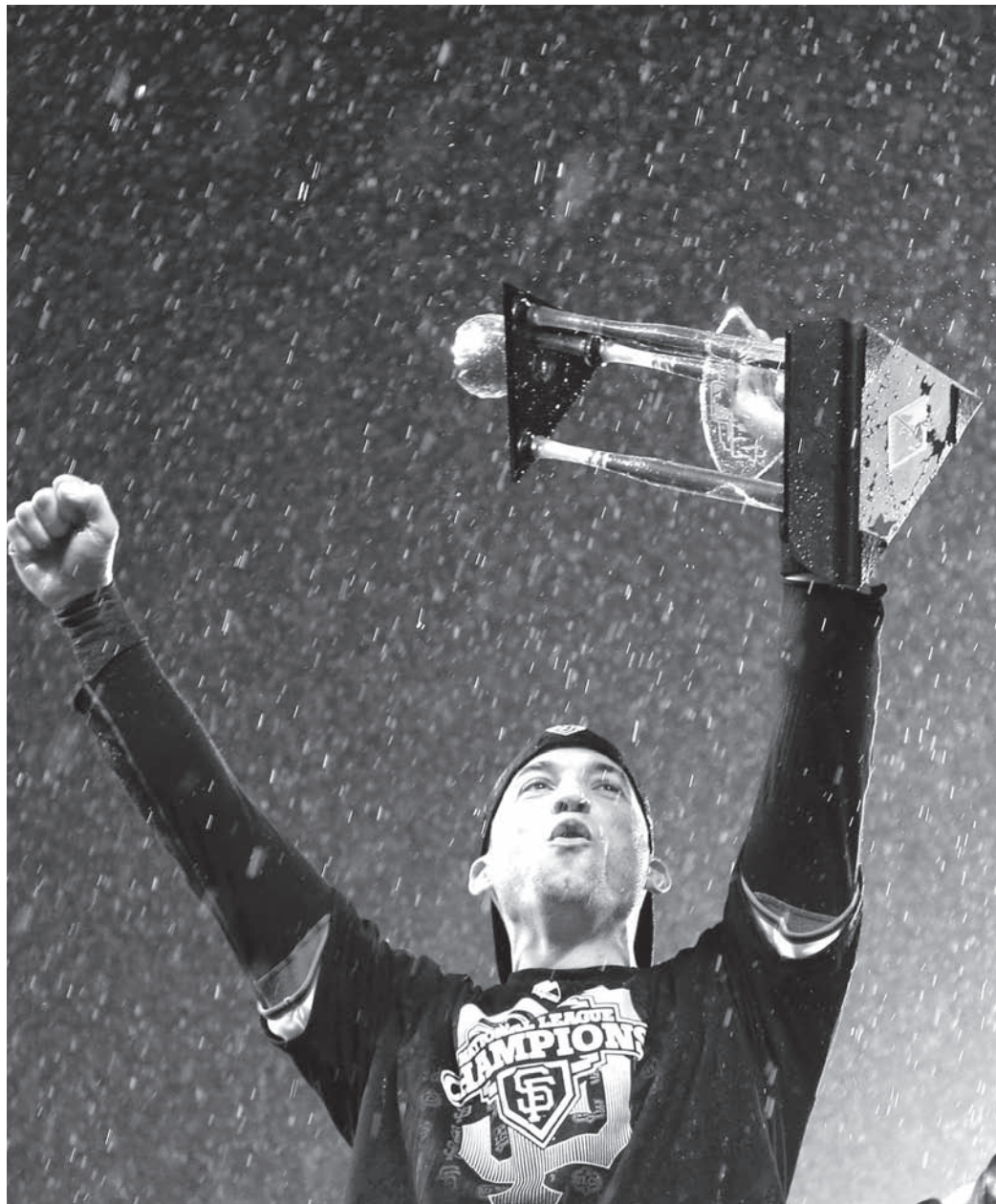
Injured closer Brian Wilson, with that out-of-control bushy black beard, danced in the dug-out and fans in the sellout crowd of 43,056 kept twirling their orange rally towels even through rain in the late innings—a downright downpour when Sergio Romo retired Matt Holliday on a popup to Scutaro to end it.

“This rain never felt so good,” Scutaro said.

Romo embraced catcher Buster Posey as fireworks went off over McCovey Cove beyond right field.

The NL West champion Giants won their first postseason clincher at home since the 2002 NLCS, also against the Cardinals.

These 2012 Giants have a couple of pretty talented cast-offs of their own not so different



San Francisco Giants’ Marco Scutaro celebrates after Game 7 of baseball’s National League championship series against the St. Louis Cardinals Monday, Oct. 22, 2012, in San Francisco. The Giants won, 9-0, to win the series.

from that winning combination of 2010 “castoffs and misfits” as Bochy referred to his bunch—with Scutaro right there at the top of the list this time around.

Acquired July 27 from the division rival Colorado Rockies, Scutaro hit .500 (14 for 28) with four RBIs in the NLCS. The 36-year-old journeyman infielder, playing in his second postseason and first since 2006 with Oakland, became the first player in major league history with six multihit games in an LCS.

Now, he’s headed to his first World Series.

The Giants have All-Star game MVP Melky Cabrera to thank for helping his teammates secure home-field advantage in the postseason—while Cain was the winning pitcher the National League’s 8-0 victory in July. Cabrera was suspended 50 games Aug. 15 for a positive testosterone test, then wasn’t added to the roster by the Giants after his suspension ended.

After rain fell on the Cardinals during batting practice, the skies turned blue and the weather cooperated. Anxious players on both sides hung over the dugout rails as the game began.

Cain joined St. Louis’ Chris Carpenter as the only pitchers with victories in two winner-take-all games in the same postseason. Carpenter, who lost Games 2 and 6 in this series, did it last year.

Cain also pitched the Giants’

Game 5 division series clincher at Cincinnati, when San Francisco became the first team in major league history to come back from an 0-2 deficit in a five-game series by winning three consecutive road games.

“I think to do it, the guys actually have to believe it can happen,” Posey said.

He delivered on an even bigger stage Monday as San Francisco saved its season once again. The Giants won their 20th NL pennant and reached their 19th World Series.

Cain walked off the mound to a standing ovation when Jeremy Affeldt entered with two outs in the sixth. Affeldt then got Daniel Descalso to pop out with two runners on.

Yadier Molina had four hits but got little help from the rest of the Cardinals, who went 1 for 21 with runners in scoring position over their final three games.

“It’s about the team that’s hot, and we went on a cold streak,” Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said. “We got to this point by being that team that was hot and taking advantage of opportunities. But we just couldn’t make it happen these last two games.”

Cain added an RBI single to his cause and got some sparkling defense behind him.

The play of the game went to shortstop Brandon Crawford, who made a leaping catch of Kyle Lohse’s liner to end the

second inning with runners on second and third that would have been a run-scoring hit.

In the third, Scutaro, the second baseman, made a tough stop on a short hop by Carlos

Beltran, and left fielder Gregor Blanco ran down a hard-hit ball by Allen Craig in left-center to end the inning.

Cain’s second-inning single

made San Francisco the first team in major league postseason history to have a starting pitcher drive in a run in three straight games.

Scutaro powers Giants past Cards to win NLCS MVP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Marco Scutaro looked up through the pouring rain, caught Matt Holliday’s popup for the final out and punched his ticket to the World Series for the first time at age 36.

In an NL championship series that saw Scutaro absorb a hard and admitted late slide from Holliday that strained the second baseman’s left hip, what a fitting ending.

Scutaro tied the NLCS record with 14 hits to earn MVP honors, capping off his remarkable run with three singles and a walk in San Francisco’s 9-0 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Monday night in the decisive Game 7.

“I was just like praying, ‘Please, you got to catch this ball,’” Scutaro said. “It was kind of tough. I was kind of concerned. The flight of the ball, the rain kind of stopped it a little bit. Another minute, I don’t think I would have a chance.”

After the kind of series he had, Scutaro came through in almost every way possible.

He batted .500 with two walks, scored six runs and drove in four. Hideki Matsui (2004 Yankees), Albert Pujols (2004 Cardinals) and Kevin Youkilis (2007 Red Sox) also had 14 hits in an LCS. And

Scutaro’s 10-game hitting streak ties Cody Ross and Alvin Dark for the longest in Giants postseason history.

Starting Wednesday night in San Francisco, he’ll have a chance to break that mark when the Giants host the Detroit Tigers in Game 1 of the World Series.

“It took him a couple days to adjust to us, but he really has been a leader since he got here,” said pitcher Ryan Vogelsong, who won Games 2 and 6. “He’s played great. He’s played great defense. He’s a true professional. He knows the game. He does all the little things right. Everything you’d lay out on a table for a guy to do, he does.”

The Giants acquired the Venezuelan native in July at the trade deadline. It turned out to be one of baseball’s best moves, and easily one of its most overlooked.

While the rival Dodgers’ spending spree made headlines from coast-to-coast, the Giants took on just \$2.1 million of Scutaro’s salary from Colorado in exchange for minor leaguer Charlie Culberson.

All Scutaro has done since is make opponents pay—and he earned a \$75,000 bonus for winning NLCS MVP honors in the process.

Cabrera vs Posey as Tigers face Giants

DETROIT (AP)—Way back in spring training, Hunter Pence hit a wicked grounder that smacked Miguel Cabrera in the face. A few months later, Pablo Sandoval launched a bases-loaded triple off Justin Verlander in the All-Star game.

Here they all are again, with everything at stake.

Tigers-Giants in the World Series.

A driven team from Detroit, loaded with power bats and arms, guided by wily Jim Leyland and coming off an impressive sweep. A surging squad from San Francisco, boosted by its rotation and talented catcher Buster Posey, fresh from a Game 7 win over defending champion St. Louis.

A Triple Crown winner in Cabrera vs. a perfect game pitcher in Matt Cain. The Motor City vs. the City by the Bay, starting with Game 1 on Wednesday in the California twilight.

“I’ll have to learn a lot about them real soon, to be honest,” Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

“I know what a great club they are. And we know all about

the guy we’re going to be facing opening day and their whole staff,” he said. “They swept the Yankees, that tells you how good they are.”

Verlander will throw the first pitch for the Tigers. Bochy said he hasn’t looked that far in advance.

It’s certainly a unique pairing. Both franchises have been around for well over a century and are stacked with Hall of Famers—Willie Mays, Ty Cobb, Carl Hubbell, Al Kaline and many more—yet they’ve never faced each other in the postseason.

Not too much recent history, either. The clubs have played only 12 games since interleague action began in 1995, most recently last year at Comerica Park. That series was notable because the Tigers fired pitching coach Rick Knapp following the final game, a day after Barry Zito and the Giants trounced Max Scherzer in a 15-3 romp.

“From Day One of spring training, we’re getting ready for this,” Giants center fielder Angel Pagan said. “We’re going to be ready. We’re going to

just keep playing baseball like we do.”

Much has changed since then.

Prince Fielder arrived in Detroit this year after a season-ending injury to Victor Martinez, and teamed with Cabrera as a most formidable tandem in the middle of the lineup.

Melky Cabrera joined the Giants and won MVP honors at the All-Star game. But he was suspended 50 games by Major League Baseball a month later for a positive testosterone test, and isn’t on the postseason roster.

The Giants bolstered their infield by trading for scrappy Marco Scutaro in late July, and he became the MVP of the NL championship series. They fortified their outfield a few days later by getting Pence from Philadelphia.

Earlier this year, Pence’s bad-hop grounder broke a bone below Cabrera’s eye and caused a bloody gash that needed eight stitches to close. Cabrera recovered fine, and will be the first Triple Crown winner to play in the World Series since Carl Yastrzemski and Boston lost in 1967.

Cutler shakes off injury, Bears tear Lions, 13-7



CHICAGO (AP)—There was a big gasp going through the stadium as Jay Cutler writhed in pain on the field. He got up and the defense provided a big lift.

Cutler returned after bruising his ribs, and Brian Urlacher made a key fumble recovery to help the Chicago Bears beat the Detroit Lions 13-7 on Monday night for their fourth straight win.

It was certainly not an easy night for the NFC North leaders, particularly their quarterback, but they came away with the win after a week off and possibly buried Detroit (2-4) in the process despite getting a major scare along the way.

That happened in the second quarter when Cutler was sacked by Ndamukong Suh and ultimately wound up going to the locker room to have his ribs examined.

"He's a tough guy," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "Most people thought Jay would get up. Unless it's a broken leg or something like that, he's going to get up. He is a tough guy. ... That was a gutsy effort by him. He was in some pain, but he



Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler (6) is sacked by Detroit Lions defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch (93) in the second half of an NFL football game in Chicago, Monday, Oct. 22, 2012.

fought through it."

Cutler came back to start the second half and finished 16 of

31 for 150 yards and a touchdown. Although he said he was feeling "all right" afterward, he acknowledged he wasn't at full strength during the game.

"But we had to fight through it," he added.

They did just that, and with the defense locking down the Lions, the Bears (5-1) prevailed. It was a huge blow for last-place Detroit, a team many expected to contend for the division championship after making the playoffs for the first time in more than a decade.

The Lions simply never got in gear, and when they had chances, they blew them. The biggest came early in the third quarter, when Joique Bell fumbled at the goal line with the Bears leading 13-0.

Urlacher recovered and Chicago hung on from there, sending Detroit to its fourth loss in five games.

Brandon Marshall caught six passes for 81 yards and scored a touchdown on Chicago's first possession. Matt Forte ran for 96 yards, and with the defense

doing its part again, Chicago never really was threatened in this one.

It was a rough night for the Lions, with Matthew Stafford going 28 of 46 for 261 yards after leading the late charge in last week's win over Philadelphia. Calvin Johnson had trouble shaking the Bears' Charles Tillman and finished with three catches for 34 yards. He dropped a deep pass over the middle on the game's first possession even though he was wide open.

"Calvin is one of the best players in the league," Smith said. "It's hard for Detroit to win games without him being productive. That's why you need a guy like Charles Tillman that can match up on him. It made them go look at other ways to get the ball down field. That's going to lead up to wins most of the time, when we can get that kind of effort out of Charles."

The Lions lost receiver Nate Burleson for the remainder of the season to a broken right leg in the third quarter on a hit by

Tim Jennings after a catch.

There weren't many scares for the Bears, with one big exception. They were leading 10-0 in the second quarter and had just taken over at their 26 when that happened.

Cutler, who had his helmet ripped off on a hit by Suh after a run last year at Soldier Field, got driven to the turf by him on an 8-yard sack. He came up kneeling and holding his head as trainers tended to him, then ran to the sideline.

Jason Campbell came in for one play, but Cutler returned right after that and threw an incomplete pass on third down before Chicago punted. But after Julius Peppers recovered a fumble by Mikel Leshoure to stop a Lions threat, Campbell was behind center while Cutler was having his ribs examined.

"That's football," Smith said. "No one's trying to hurt anyone or anything like that. It's a tough, hard-nosed game. He's playing hard, trying to win the game."

When Cutler trotted onto the

field to start the second half, some fans cheered.

They were really roaring moments later when Stefan Logan fumbled trying to catch Adam Podlesh's punt. Zack Bowman recovered it for Chicago at the 27, and that led to a 21-yard field goal by Robbie Gould to make it 13-0 after Cutler had two passes broken up with the ball on the 3.

The Lions lost Burleson after a 16-yard catch near midfield on the next possession but drove all the way to the 1 before Bell turned it over. As he lunged over the pile, Henry Melton poked the ball out and Urlacher made the recovery to keep the shutout going. D.J. Moore extended it when he picked off Stafford near the goal line in the closing minutes. The Lions finally scored when Stafford connected with Ryan Broyles on a 12-yarder with 30 seconds left.

Early on, the Bears looked like a team bent on solidifying its spot on top of the division while burying the Lions.

They struck on their first possession, with Forte getting some big blocks and breaking through a hole on the left side for a 39-yard run to the 7, and Cutler connected with Marshall on the next play to make it 7-0. Gould added to it with a 39-yard field goal late in the quarter, after a 24-yard scramble by Cutler and personal foul by Detroit's Corey Williams against Earl Bennett on the play put the ball on the 21. By then, there had already been some chippiness, with players pushing and shoving after a fair catch Logan on a punt.

It was hardly a surprise, given the way the emotions boiled over last year at Soldier Field. The Bears won that game 37-13, but the lasting image wasn't Stafford getting picked off four times. Or, Devin Hester returning a punt 82 yards for a touchdown.

It was Stafford grabbing Moore by the helmet and throwing him to the ground near the Lions sideline after Chicago's Jennings picked off a pass, setting off a confrontation between players from both sides and putting the ribbon on a heated game.

Goodell: NFL could drop Pro Bowl

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL will consider dropping the Pro Bowl if the level of play doesn't improve, Commissioner Roger Goodell said Monday night.

Appearing on SiriusXM NFL Radio's "Town Hall," Goodell agreed with host Michael Strahan that last January's Pro Bowl "was embarrassing."

"If we cannot accomplish that kind of standard (of high play), I am inclined to not play it," Goodell said. "It is really tough to force competition, and after a long season, to ask those guys to go out and play at the same level they played is really tough."

The league still would select a Pro Bowl team through voting by players, coaches and fans, because it is an honor, but "just not play the game," he said.

The Pro Bowl will take place in January, a week before the Super Bowl, after the players lobbied to keep it, promising to upgrade their performances. Goodell and others were disappointed in the quality of last year's Pro Bowl, won 59-41 by the AFC and missing any semblance of hard hitting.

More from Goodell:

■ The league is working on scheduling more East Coast games involving West Coast teams in late-afternoon slots to avoid what amounts to a 10 a.m. kickoff for the western teams.

"Several of our teams on the West Coast have raised that and we have been studying it," he said. "We have tried to put

as many of those games on the East Coast at 4 p.m. You can imagine the thousands of different issues you have to put into the schedule. But the 10 o'clock starts are pretty tough."

■ He praised teams for making it possible for fans to text concerns about unruly behavior to stadium security.

"Allowing you to text to security personnel rather than having to get an usher, that is a plus to fans," said Goodell, who recently sat with his family in the stands at a Titans-Vikings game in Minneapolis. "The arrests are down and ejections are up. Our teams are ejecting fans who are unruly. And arrests (being) down is an indication that fans are getting the message."

■ Explained the NFL's studies of potential developmental leagues for players and officials. He said if the schedule format ever drops two preseason games, there will be more discussions on the subject because teams will have a more difficult time determining the makeup of rosters.

He added the NFL is looking for more ways to train on-field officials and for them to have interaction with players, citing college football, Arena Football and the CFL as places that could happen.

Going to an 18-game regular season with two exhibition games remains a point of contention with the players' union. But Goodell admitted to having "an issue with the preseason."

NBA GMs pick Heat, LeBron to repeat in poll



NEW YORK (AP)—NBA general managers are predicting the Miami Heat to repeat as NBA champions and LeBron James to win another MVP award.

The GMs gave high marks to the Los Angeles Lakers' moves and picked them to win the Western Conference, but the Heat got 70 percent of the votes to win the 2013 championship.

Those were among the results of the annual NBA.com GM Survey, released Monday. All 30 executives were polled and could not vote for

their own teams or players. Responders voted the Hornets' Anthony Davis as the likely Rookie of the Year and the Spurs' Gregg Popovich as the league's best coach.

Full results of the more than 50 questions are available on NBA.com.

Meanwhile, the Denver Nuggets have exercised third-year options on forward Kenneth Faried and swingman Jordan Hamilton for 2013-14.

Faried averaged 10.2 points and 7.7 rebounds as a rookie last year. He's averaging 11 points and 5.8 rebounds after five preseason games.

Hamilton, acquired from Dallas in a three-team trade in June 2011, averaged 4.4 points and 2.4 rebounds as a rookie last year. He's averaging 12.3 points after three preseason games this year.

In Indiana, the Pacers announced Monday they have exercised the team option on the contract for swingman Paul George for the 2013-14 season.

George started all 66 games in which he played for the Pacers last season and averaged 12.1 points.

The team also waived center Luke Nevill and guards Sundiata Gaines and Blake Ahearn.


Gaines played in 57 games, including 12 starts, for the Nets last season when he averaged 5.1 points. Ahearn played in four games for Utah last season.

In Oklahoma City, the Thunder waived guard Walker Russell on Monday, reducing their training camp roster to 18.

Russell, who played 28 games with Detroit last season, was the first player to be cut by Oklahoma City during training camp. He appeared in one exhibition game, scoring five points with one assist in 6 minutes.

The Thunder must cut three more players before the regular season.

Kanoa Resort to hold 3-on-3 caging

 The Kanoa Resort will be hosting a women's 3-on-3 basketball tournament next month.

Dubbed as the "2012 Kanoa Resort Women's 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament," the competition will be held at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai. The league is open to players in the 12-and-above age group and entry fee is only \$5 per player. Participants must submit registration/waiver forms, which should also be signed by a parent or guardian of players under 18.

The tournament will run from Nov. 1 to 20 and each team is allowed to have a maximum of 6 players. Games will be played twice a week or every Thursday and Saturday.

Deadline for submission of team rosters along with player registration forms is set for Oct. 29 at 5 pm.

For more information, please contact Irish Pagarao at 789-8311 or Mae Ito at 235-8747 ext 148 or 287-3607. (PR)

Female players in action during the Kanoa Resort fall caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium, which will host a 3-on-3 tournament next month.

ROSELYN B. MONROY



RUSELLE

From Page 28

out matches in the Men's Masters yesterday and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Thursday edition.

Meanwhile, Raphael Zapanta, who was ranked No. 10 after the doubles and singles

events, missed the Sweet 16, as he fell to No. 23, while Robert Talavera (No. 54), Bernard Paraiso (No. 65), and Ariel Dumapit (No. 66) were also eliminated.

The Zapanta brothers, Manacop, and Robert Talavera joined forces for Saipan Bowling Association and finished third in the first block of the

team event. The quartet totaled 2,453 pinfalls with Manacop giving the team 657 pinfalls, Ruselle chipping in 614, Talavera contributing 595, and Raphael adding 587. The SBA bets fell only six pinfalls behind the bowlers from Tamuning, Guam. The host city topped the first block with 2,540 pinfalls. Players rolled off three games

PIC

From Page 28

5 to keep Fong's in contention, with still one full quarter to go.

Brett Sutton then opened the fourth period with back-to-back baskets and Barbo and Demapan picked up from where the former left off, combining for the next 12 points of PIC and adding 4 more markers each in the homestretch. Abuy also made it to the scoreboard for PIC in the fourth, contributing 7 en route to their 10-point win.

Fong's slowly lost the game in

the fourth, as it had only Black trying to keep up with Barbo and company, while on offense, Pagarao and Lerio were held to only one field goal apiece in the playoff period.

Pagarao and Lerio went on to top-score for the eliminated Fong's Bakery with their 27 points each and adding Black's 14 markers, the team still feel 2 points short of the 70 markers Barbo, Sutton, and Demapan poured in for PIC. Abuy's 15 points also spelled the difference in the second playoff match.

Meanwhile, next up for PIC is the winner of Hi-Five-Oceanside Bar/Hoopaholics playoff

tiff, which was played last night. The other semis pairing will have Mobil challenging the victory of the Archers-Brabu/Ashley's game, which also took place last night. The two semis games are set for tomorrow, while the winner-take-all finals will be played this Saturday.

PIC 95 – Barbo 25, Demapan 25, Sutton 20, Abuy 15, Sublemente 5, Abuel 2.

Fong's Bakery 85 – Pagarao 27, Lerio 27, Black 14, De Leon 7, Catalla 3, Metran 2, Caro 2, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-14, 51-45, 64-62, 95-85.

LITTLE

From Page 28

team trophies.

Notably, the Comets, the Senior's Ol'Aces, the Hustlers, and Junior League's Hawaiya Technologies, Inc. Ol'Aces took home the pennant trophies in their respective divisions.

Team sportsmanship awards went out to Major's McDonald's, Junior's DYS-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero Kagman Lions, Senior's Dare Program Enforcers, and Big League's St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters.

The Ol'Aces' junior and big league squads, as well as the Natibu Sports Association's Tanapag Falcons in the Majors and the Senior's Talaawboug Falcons all received runner-up honors, while third place awardees included Major's Pacific Amusement Rays, Junior's Natibu Talaawboug Falcons, Senior's Juan Santiago's Jets II and the Big League's IT&E Fielders. This year's pennant runners-up included the Major's JPO Enforcers, the Junior's Red Sox, the Senior's Falcons, and Big League's Docomo Ol'Aces. Third runner-up pennant recognition went to Major's IT&E Ol'Aces, Saipan Shipping Company's Junior Jets, the Senior's IT&E's senior, and Big League's Fielders.

In addition to offering its gratitude to the parents for their patience and the team sponsors for their support, SLLBI officials also sent out special thanks to Pacific Amusement, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao,

Esther Fleming, DCCA's Division of Youth Services, and Manny and Peding Tenorio and Annie Flores for helping provide materials and funding for the awards.

Notably, the Tenorios and Flores donated some old trophies that were recycled into new accolades, while Pacific Amusement provided funding for individual trophies that went to the major division players. DYS helped foot the bill for the other three divisions.

After the awards were presented, SLLBI vice president and Rep. Ray Yumul announced that the league will be holding its first meeting for the upcoming 2013 season some time before December.

Yumul also shared that the league has already set a goal of having the funding allocated, in advance, for all four division's potential appearances in next year's Asia Pacific Regional Championship (ASPAC) tournaments.

Furthermore, league officials are shooting for a January start up for the 2013 season.

CYCLING

From Page 28

for life for doping.

As far as the Tour is concerned, his victories never happened. He was never on the top step of the podium. The winner's yellow jersey was never on his back.

The decision by the International Cycling Union marked an end to the saga that brought down the most decorated rider in Tour history and exposed widespread cheating in the sport.

"Lance Armstrong has no place in cycling, and he deserves to be forgotten in cycling," said Pat McQuaid, president of the governing body. "Make no mistake, it's a catastrophe for him, and he has to face up to that."

It's also devastating for Tour de France organizers, who have to carve seven gaping holes from the honor roll of the sport's biggest event and airbrush Armstrong's image from a sun-baked podium on the Champs-Elysees.

No more rides through Paris for the grim-faced cancer survivor bearing the American flag. No champagne. From the sport's perspective, it's all gone.

"We wish that there is no winner for this period," Tour director Christian Prudhomme said Mon-

day in Paris. "For us, very clearly, the titles should remain blank. Effectively, we wish for these years to remain without winners."

Armstrong's fiercely defended reputation as a clean athlete was shattered by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency two weeks ago, when it detailed evidence of drug use and trafficking by his Tour-winning teams. USADA released its report to show why it ordered Armstrong banned from competition back in August. Monday's judgment by the UCI was just the necessary next legal step to formalize the loss of his titles and expel him from the sport.

It will likely also trigger painful financial hits for Armstrong as race organizers and former sponsors line up to reclaim what are now viewed as his ill-gotten rewards, though the cyclist maintains he never doped.

Prudhomme wants Armstrong to pay back prize money from his seven wins, which the French cycling federation tallied at (EURO)2.95 million (\$3.85 million). Armstrong also once was awarded \$7.5 million plus legal fees from Dallas-based SCA Promotions Inc., which tried to withhold paying a bonus for the rider's 2004 Tour victory after it alleged he doped to win.

The U.S. government could also get involved in a case brought by Floyd Landis, who was key to taking down his illustrious former teammate by turning whistleblower in 2010.

The losses pile up for a man who dedicated himself to victory, over other cyclists and the cancer that almost killed him in 1996.

Neither Armstrong nor his representatives had any comment about Monday's decision, but the rider was defiant in August when he chose not to fight USADA in one of the agency's arbitration hearings. He argued the process was rigged against him.

"I know who won those seven Tours, my teammates know who won those seven Tours, and everyone I competed against knows who won those seven Tours," Armstrong said then. "The toughest event in the world where the strongest man wins. Nobody can ever change that."

The condemnation by McQuaid, cycling's most senior official, confirmed Armstrong's pariah status, after the UCI had backed him at times in trying to seize control of the doping investigation from USADA.

McQuaid announced that the UCI accepted the sanctions imposed by USADA and would not appeal them to the Court of

in the first block.

Another three-game roll-off took place in the second block and adding the SBA keggers 2,290 pinfalls, Ruselle and company fell to the No. 8 spot, as they totaled 4,743. Tamuning's JD Guerrero, Jay Leon Guerrero, Duane Lee Camacho, and John Ada ruled the team event with their 5,297 pinfalls.

Arbitration for Sport. His board will meet Friday to discuss going after Armstrong's 2000 Olympic bronze medal and the possibility of setting up a "Truth and Reconciliation" commission to air the sport's remaining secrets.

"WADA is encouraged that the UCI feels it can use this case as a catalyst to thoroughly clean up its sport and remove any remaining vestiges of the doping programs that have clearly damaged cycling over the last decade," World Anti-Doping Agency President John Fahey said in a release.

The International Olympic Committee said it would study the UCI's response and wait to receive its full decision before possibly taking away Armstrong's medal from the Sydney Games time trial.

"It is good to see that all parties involved in this case are working together to tackle this issue," the IOC said.

McQuaid said he was "sickened" by some of the evidence detailed by USADA in its 200-page report and hundreds of pages of supporting testimony and documents.

USADA said Armstrong was at the center of "the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport

has ever seen" within his U.S. Postal Service and Discovery Channel teams.

The American agency welcomed the decision by UCI.

"Today, the UCI made the right decision in the Lance Armstrong case," USADA CEO

Travis Tygart said in a statement, which called on cycling to continue to fight doping. "There are many more details of doping that are hidden, many more doping doctors, and corrupt team directors and the omerta has not yet been fully broken."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	4	3	0	.571	217	163
Miami	3	3	0	.500	120	117
N.Y. Jets	3	4	0	.429	159	170
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	171	227

South

Houston	6	1	0	.857	216	128
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	117	158
Tennessee	3	4	0	.429	149	238
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	88	164

North

Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	174	161
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500	140	132
Cincinnati	3	4	0	.429	166	187
Cleveland	1	6	0	.143	147	180

West

Denver	3	3	0	.500	170	138
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	148	137
Oakland	2	4	0	.333	113	171
Kansas City	1	5	0	.167	104	183

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	205	137
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	103	125
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	113	133
Washington	3	4	0	.429	201	200

South

Atlanta	6	0	0	1.000	171	113
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New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	176	182
Tampa Bay	2	4	0	.333	148	136
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	106	144

North

Chicago	5	1	0	.833	161	78
Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	167	131
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	184	155
Detroit	2	4	0	.333	133	150

West

San Francisco	5	2	0	.714	165	100
Arizona	4	3	0	.571	124	118
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	116	106
St. Louis	3	4	0	.429	130	141

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

M-LEAGUE STANDINGS

Division 1

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
Wild Bill's	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
KFAS	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
Tan Holdings	1	1	1	5	4	1	4
Inter Godfather's	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
Paire	0	0	2	1	4	-3	0

Division 2

Matansa	4	0	0	14	2	12	9
MP United	2	0	0	17	1	16	6
Kanoa FC	0	0	3	2	21	-19	0
Shirley's	0	0	3	1	11	-10	0

Lady Dolphins sweep Lady Rays

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Marianas High School dominated Saipan Southern High School both in the varsity and junior varsity games in the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League last Monday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The two-time champions Lady Dolphins improved to a perfect 4-0 record after a sound 70-35 victory over the Lady Rays (2-2) in the varsity game, while MHS' junior varsity team served Southern (2-1) its first loss in surprising fashion, 42-14. The Lady Dolphins moved up into first place in the junior varsity standings with their second win in as many tries. Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus (0-3) complete the division.

The Lady Dolphins made bridesmaids out of the Lady Mantas once again, as the latter only put up a good fight in the first quarter.

Point guard Jeralyn Castillo started the engine from the tip and fed her little sister Jeraldine and Glorily Williams, and the trio helped build an early 19-12 lead for MHS.

The Lady Manta Rays were without key players, Roxanne Duenas and Ayana Ongelungel,



Saipan Southern High School's Czarina Lizama, left, gets tangled up with Marianas High School's Lovely Francisco as they dive for a loose ball during their game in the MISO girls varsity caging last Monday at the MHS Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

but Southern battled it out with its rivals at the start and managed some positive results.

Things changed quickly, however, in the second quarter, as the Lady Rays were held to just two buckets from Rose Lizama, while the Dolphins skyrocketed ahead at the half, 57-16. Jeraldine Castillo finished the first half with 17 points, while Williams and center Rachel Abrams teamed up for 14.

Southern licked its wounds during the intermission and caught a break, as MHS called off the dogs in the third quarter. However the Lady Rays were still unable to chomp away the deficit, falling behind by 38, 24-62.

Ahead by a big margin at the start of the fourth quarter, the Lady Dolphins continued to exasperate the Lady Ayuyus with their press defense for the

remainder of the match. Southern could barely get the ball out of the backcourt, as MHS keyed on the Lady Rays' only true ball handler, Czarina Lizama.

Lizama was held to 15 points, while Vanessa Bartolo showed up as usual with 10 in support, but Southern struggled protecting, or even moving the ball, for the majority of the second half.

Jeraldine Castillo led all scorers with her 24 points.

In the junior varsity pairing, the Lady Dolphins worked out an 8-2 lead and doubled up the Lady Rays at midpoint, 16-8.

Friendly Pena and Shaina Abadilla provided 4 points each and led three other backers in the first half.

Southern was still in the game when it took the floor in the third quarter, but was limited to just 3

points, as MHS motored away, 26-11, off Shaina Santiago's 6 markers.

The door was not completely closed if only Southern managed a defensive stand against the Lady Dolphins, who turned on their afterburners for a 16-point burst to stamp an exclamation point on the victory.

Havika Farro led MHS' final push with 8 points, but Pena still top-scored for the Lady Dolphins with her 10. Southern's Ayana Ongelungel was contained to 11 on the short end.

The season continues today at 4:30pm with Kagman taking on Mount Carmel School in the varsity division game.

Junior Varsity

MHS 42 – Pena 10, Farro 8, Santiago 6, Abadilla 4, Lopez 4, Race 4, Abantao 2, Echavez 2, Pablo 2.

SSHS 14 – Ongelungel 11, Rogoyawa 3.

Scoring by quarters: 8-2, 16-8, 26-11, 42-14.

Varsity

MHS 70 – Jeraldine Castillo 24, Williams 12, Jeralyn Castillo 9, Abrams 8, Ocampo 5, Lumbai 4, Lizardo, Gatchalian 1.

SSHS 35 – C. Lizama 15, V. Bartolo 10, C. Bartolo 14, R. Lizama 4, Angui 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-12, 57-16, 62-24, 70-35.

Gurung made it a 3-0 lead for Matansa at halftime, as he knocked in his first goal two minutes before the first half buzzer sounded. Gurung then duplicated Chhetri's feat when the former lit up the scoreboard anew early in the second half.

Neck-and-neck games in M-League

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



No teams in Division 1 of the M-League were willing to give in during the two matches played at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Sunday.

In the first game, Wild Bill's and Inter Godfather's slugged it out from start to finish and had to settle for a 1-1 draw.

Neither team broke into the scoreboard in the first half, as both squads played tough and physical defense, resulting to three Wild Bill's players getting yellow cards for committing either an unsportsmanlike conduct or rough play and one earning a red card for a serious foul. A yellow card was also issued to one Inter Godfather's striker for a rough play.

The halftime break was badly needed to cool off the brewing rivalry between Wild Bill's and Inter and when the heat subsided, the former managed to end the drought with Tanapon Unsa finding the back of the net in the 59th minute.

Wild Bill's hung on to the lead for quite a long time before Inter got a break off the former's foul, awarding Peter Loken a penalty kick in the 81st minute for the equalizer.

Tan Holdings 1, KFAS 1

The second Division 1 match



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tan Holdings FC player, left, goes for a header against a Korean Football Association on Saipan defender during their Division 1 game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

between Tan Holdings FC and Korean Football Association on Saipan also resulted in a draw.

KFAS was the first team to score, as Chong Koo Gil eluded his defenders and hit his target midway in the first half. Ho Man Cheng then saved Tan Holdings from getting its second loss, as he made the game-tying goal in the second half.

With the two matches in Division 1 last weekend ending in draws, four of the five squads in the group have earned 4 points each. Wild Bill's and KFAS have gained 4 points each with their similar 1-1-0 win-draw-loss records, while Inter Godfather's and Tan Holding's hold

identical 1-1-1 cards.

Paire FC completes the field and owns a 0-0-2 slate.

Matansa 4, Kanoa 0

In Division 2, Matansa FC kept the lead in the four-team field after shutting out Kanoa.

Matansa now has a 4-0-0 slate, two wins ahead of MP United, and recorded its second win against Kanoa, which fell to a dismal 0-0-3 card.

Dhiraj Chhetri and Tej Gurung teamed up in Matansa' thumping of Kanoa, as they scored two goals each. Chhetri nailed back-to-back goals, drilling his first one in the 15minute and the second nine minutes later.

Erika's Catering, Island Apparel triumph

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Erika's Catering bested Marianas Water, 89-79, while Island Apparel held off LD Prime, 87-75, as the 40A matches in the 2012 Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI Recreational League took the center stage last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Erika's Catering pulled off a come-from-behind win in the first 40A pairing, recovering from a 10-point deficit at halftime with Ferdie Tobias leading the team's second-half surge.

Dennis Pacheco started out with a hot hand and put together 8 points to lift Marianas Water to a slim 18-17 edge. Amor Casabuena then heated up in the second period and teamed up with Pacheco and the duo's 17 points trotted Marianas Water in front, 45-35, at halftime.

Facing a double-digit deficit at the pause, Erika's Catering roared back in the third period and swiped the lead, 62-56, thanks largely to the 14 points of Ferdie Tobias. Tobias then added 10 points in the final canto, while Edwin Santos contributed 7, as Erika's Catering coasted through the late minutes.

Tobias led all scorers with 38 points, while Marianas Water's Jun Abedes dashed for a dozen markers in what turned out to be a botched comeback attempt in the fourth, but did manage to turn a team-high 22 points.

In the second game, Island Apparel buried a trio of treys right out of the gate with

two of them lofted by Edgar Pangelinan, who scored 10 points to help account for their 23-17 margin at the start of the second quarter.

Pangelinan tacked on 9 more points in the second period, as Island Apparel extended its lead to 12 at midpoint, 44-32.

Nat Banatasa led LD Prime through the first half with his 13 points and added 7 more markers in the third quarter to trim Island Apparel's lead to three possessions, 55-63, with the final 10 minutes yet to go. However in the end, Island Apparel proved to be too much to handle, as Pangelinan and Ray Duenas both finished strong with 8 points apiece to secure the feat.

Pangelinan lit up the scoreboard with 36 points, while Banatasa led on the short end with 22.

First Game

Erika's Catering 89 – Tobias 38, E. Santos 17, Cosino 11, Villasan 10, Ebuen 10, De Jesus 3.

Marianas Water 79 – Abedes 22, Pacheco 19, Casabuena 18, Galulu 11, Tengco 3, Olivos 2, Salvosa 2, Samson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-18, 35-45, 62-56, 89-79.

Second Game

Island Apparel 87 – E. Pangelinan 36, Duenas 19, Park 12, Masga 9, Sablan 7, Lizama 4.

LD Prime 75 – Banatasa 22, Pablo 17, Quemado 10, Salazar 9, Mabal 6, Balicante 6, De Belen 3, Lagumbay 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-17, 44-32, 63-55, 87-75.

Chamber of Commerce golf tourney this Saturday



The 5th Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC) Golf Tournament will take place this Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Resort Golf Course.

The weekend single round, two-man scramble format tournament will start at 7am, with players requested to register beginning at 6am. Player registration and entry fees are set at \$99.95, inclusive of greens fees and entry to awards banquet. Banquet guests are welcome for \$30.

The 2-man team tournament will have competition in three separate categories: men's low gross, men's low net (double peoria) and women's low net (double peoria). First placer in each category gets \$600, second place wins \$300 and third place takes \$200.

Hole-in-one prizes include \$10,000 (from Takagi & Associates and AON Insurance) on the 161-yard hole No. 3, \$25,000 (Bank of Hawaii) on the 194-yard hole No. 12, and a 2013 Hyundai Elantra (Triple J Motors) on the 165-yard hole No. 13. Closest to the pin winner on the 130-yard



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Airlines account manager Marissa del Rosario, center, presents two roundtrip United Economy tickets worth \$3,400 to Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Richard A. Pierce, left, and Janice Tenorio for the Chamber's golf tournament that will be held this Saturday at Coral Ocean Point.

hole No. 7 will get round trip ticket to Japan (Delta Air Lines) and a special prize donated by DataDot. Raffle prizes worth thousands of dollars include gift certificates and merchandise from SCC members, hotel accommodations, airline tickets to the U.S. mainland, and women's luxury handbags.

This year's tournament is sponsored

by ASC Trust, DataDot, Delta Air Lines, DFS Galleria, Saipan Shipping Company, Take-Care Insurance, United Air Lines, Xerox Corporation, MCV, Pacific Islands Club, and Tan Holdings.

Entry forms are available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office in the Family Building in Garapan and at COP. (PR)

Giants on to World Series with 9-0 win over Cards

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Cutler shakes off injury, Bears tear Lions 13-7

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28 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ruselle, Simon advance to Sweet 16



Manacop



Zapanta

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two Saipan bowlers qualified in the Men's Masters event of the 26th Asian Intercity Bowling Championships after a strong showing in the team competition last Monday at the Premium Lanes Penang in Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.

PIC marches into semifinals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Top-ranked Pacific Islands Club lived up to its lofty billing, beating Fong's Bakery, 95-85, in the second playoff game in the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup last Saturday at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Big men Darwin Barbo and Bart Demapan made up for their poor showing in their last game in the regular season, scoring 25 points each against Fong's to give PIC the second semis seat. The two PIC frontliners, who had only 8 points apiece in their disappointing 60-97 defeat at the hands of Hi-Five, combined for 14 of their 31 points in the fourth quarter to thwart Fong's bid for an upset.

Fong's Bakery was clearly the underdog in the second playoff pairing, but it kept its playoff hopes alive in the first half behind the 3-point shooting of Sonny Lerio and Lerio Pagarao. Fong's drew eight triples from its two gunners, while James Abuy canned only a pair for PIC, which still enjoyed a 6-point lead at the break, 51-45, before Fong's threatened a comeback in the third canto. PIC then called Barbo and



Pacific Islands Club's Brett Sutton, center, goes up for a reverse shot against two Fong's Bakery defenders during their playoff game in the Emon Lodge caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Demapan for help in the fourth, as the last-seeded Fong's Bakery gave the former quite a scare in the third period, moving within two, 62-64. Pagarao and Maui Black fired 6 points apiece, while Lerio chipped in

Earning slots to the prestigious event were Ruselle Zapanta and Simon Manacop, who were ranked No. 11 and 15, respectively, in the 60-plus field. Only the Top 16 bowlers advanced to the Men's Masters after combining their scores in the singles, doubles, and team event.

Ruselle Zapanta collected 3,752 pinfalls, getting 1,239 in the singles, 1,291 in doubles, and 614 (first block) and 608 (second block) in team event for an impressive average of 208.4 pinfalls per game.

Manacop made a huge leap in last Monday's competition, as he sat at the No. 25 spot after the singles (1,269) and doubles (1,125) roll-offs last weekend. Then in the team event, he knocked down 657 pins in the first block and 665 in the second to wound up with 3,716 pinfalls and average 206.4 per game.

Both Manacop and Ruselle Zapanta were playing in knock-

See RUSELLE on Page 26

Little League champions finally get awards

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Joseph P. Guerrero Dandan Comets' Christopher Achas, left, and manager Tony Camacho pose with the team's championship and pennant trophies during the SLLBI 2012 season awards ceremony last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

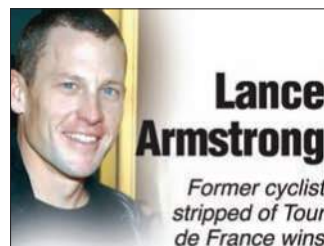
It is better late than never for Saipan Little League champions who just received their trophies last Saturday or about five months after the 2012 season concluded.

Saipan Little League Baseball, Incorporated apologized once again for the long wait, as a small group of recipients turned out for the brief and informal awards ceremony held at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Major division's Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero Dandan Comets, Junior League's Bank of Saipan Red Sox, Senior's Docomo Pacific/Ol'Aces, and Big League's Paradise Island Animal Hospital Hustlers all received their championship

See LITTLE on Page 26

Cycling officials strip Armstrong of Tour titles



Lance Armstrong

Former cyclist stripped of Tour de France wins

Early life

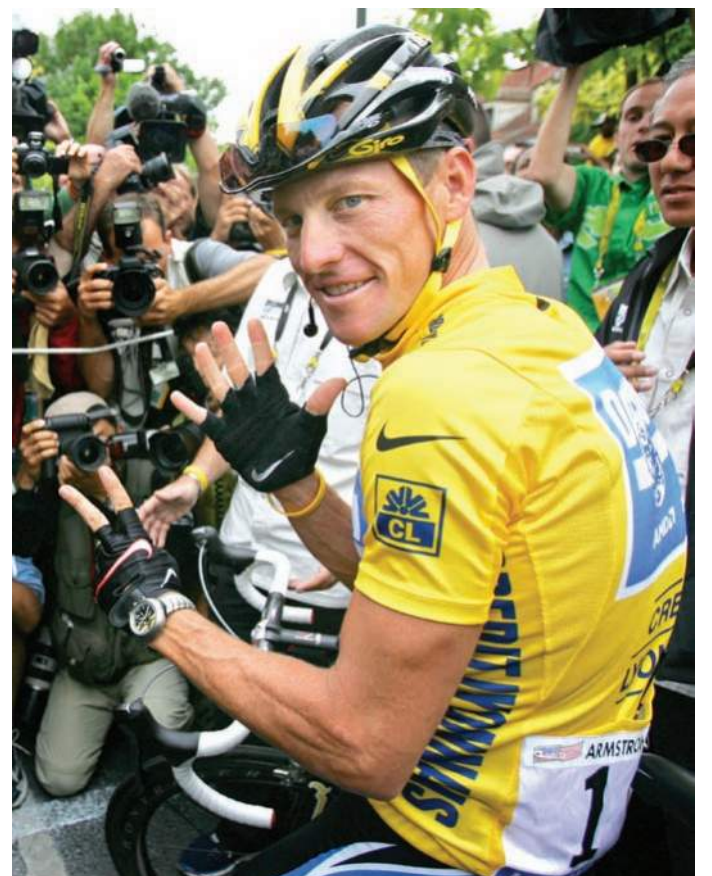
Born 1971, in Plano, Texas
Wins Iron Kids Triathlon

Cycling career

1991 U.S. amateur champion
1993, 1995 Wins stages in Tour de France
1995, 1996 Wins Tour DuPont
1996-1997 Testicular cancer spreads to lungs, brain; has surgery, chemotherapy; establishes the Lance Armstrong Foundation for cancer research
1999-2005 Wins Tour de France a record seven times
2009 Returns to the Tour, finishing third
2010 Competes in the Tour but finishes 23rd; teammate Floyd Landis alleges Armstrong used banned substances
2011 Tyler Hamilton, another teammate, says they both used banned substances on the 1999 Tour, which Armstrong denies

Oct. 11, 2012 U.S. Anti-Doping Agency says Armstrong led successful doping program for cyclists
Oct. 22 International Cycling Union strips him of all titles

Source: lancearmstrong.com, AP, BBC, MCT Photo Service © 2012 MCT



This is a July 24, 2005, file photo showing overall leader Lance Armstrong, of Austin, Texas, surrounded by press photographers, signaling seven, for his seventh straight win in the Tour de France cycling race, prior to the start of the 21st and final stage of the race, between Corbeil-Essonnes, south of Paris, and the French capital. UCI, the cycling governing body, agreed Monday, Oct. 22, 2012 to strip Lance Armstrong of his seven Tour de France titles.



GENEVA (AP)—Seven lines of blanks. From 1999 to 2005. There will be no Tour de France winner in the record book for

those years. Once the toast of the Champs-Elysees, Lance Armstrong was formally stripped of his seven Tour titles Monday and banned

See CYCLING on Page 26